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Iraq draws up 'charge sheet' for Bush

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday it has drawn up a charge sheet for the trial of "criminal" U.S. President George Bush for sending troops to the Gulf after its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Al Shabib Al Maliki, Iraqi secretary-general of the Arab Lawyers Union, as saying Bush should stand trial by a people's court this month. Iraq said Sept. 1 it would try the American president shortly after the White House said it was considering bringing Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein before a war crimes tribunal for using Westerners to deter attacks on Iraq. Maliki said the charges included: — Sending American troops to the Gulf region and occupying Muslim shrines in Saudi Arabia; — threatening to attack Iraq and the Arab Nation; imposing economic measures against Iraq, including sanctions on food, medicine and children's milk, and issuing orders to the American Central Intelligence Agency to conspire against President Saddam Hussein. Maliki said he had asked other parties to "present any complaints to the popular court."

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Senate backs King's efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Monday affirmed its pride in His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and its backing for the King's continued efforts to contain the Gulf crisis and solve it within an Arab context. In a cable it sent to King Hussein the Senate said future Arab generations "will always remember His Majesty's role in making the history of the Arab Nation and preserving its national security and fate." The Senate held a closed session under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members. The Senate was briefed by Badran on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and King Hussein's endeavours to solve the crisis peacefully. Badran also reviewed the outcome of the King's recent visits to several Arab and foreign countries and answered inquiries made by senators.

All immigrants Jews, Israel says

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's interior ministry has established that almost all recent Soviet immigrants are Jews despite earlier concern that nearly a third were not, Israel Radio said Monday. The ministry previously said some 30 per cent of immigrants were non-Jewish because computer lists showed they had not indicated their religion. But the ministry has now registered 96 per cent of all the immigrants as Jews, the radio said. More than 98,000 immigrants have arrived in Israel so far this year, including 87,000 from the Soviet Union, immigration officials say.

PLO protests Sharon trip

MOSCOW (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has protested against a visit to Moscow by hardline Israeli Minister Ariel Sharon, architect of the 1982 Lebanon invasion and supporter of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. In a letter to the official TASS news agency, PLO Ambassador Nabil Amr condemned the visit as "provocative throughout the world." Sharon, one-time defence minister and now in charge of housing, arrived in Moscow last week at the invitation of a cooperative to explore the purchase of prefabricated homes. "It is especially puzzling that Ariel Sharon, responsible for the destruction of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese homes, has arrived... to coordinate actions in resolving the housing problem," Amr said.

Maghreb leaders consult on joint Gulf initiative

ALGIERS (R) — Five North African heads of state are consulting informally on a possible joint initiative to help bring peace to the Gulf, a diplomatic source said. He said Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, president of the Arab Maghreb Union that groups Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania, was prepared to lead such an initiative if other heads of state agreed. Their foreign ministers agreed last week on a set of principles that could form the basis of a joint initiative.

Britain searching Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — British customs and security officials at Heathrow airport Sunday mounted an unusual search of briefcases and papers carried by Jordanian businessmen, according to passengers coming from London aboard a Royal Jordanian flight. One of the Jordanian businessmen who were aboard the flight told the Jordan Times that after finishing all the normal official procedures at the airport and at the gate leading to the plane a British customs official approached everyone he believed to be a businessman asking for a repeat search of briefcases. The passenger said after finishing the "very strict" searching procedure, which included only Jordanian businessmen, the official asked those who were searched to go to two British security men to finish procedures.

Saddam offers free oil to Third World

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein Monday offered Third World countries free oil, irrespective of their government's stands towards his confrontation with the West.

"We hereby declare that we are prepared to supply all Third World countries with oil free of charge in accordance with the needs of each country," Saddam said in a message addressed to the Third World countries.

Accusing the West of making "filthy profits" out of the Gulf crisis, Saddam said his offer was made out of solidarity with fellow Third World countries and was not conditional on their support for Iraq.

His statement was immediately seen by diplomats as yet another attempt to drive a wedge in the U.N. sanctions which have blocked all trade with Iraq and Kuwait.

Before its invasion of Kuwait, Iraq was the world's second exporter of oil after Saudi Arabia, which has boosted output by around 40 per cent to help fill the gap in world crude supplies.

Saddam's message was read by

veteran broadcaster, Miqdad Morad, over the state radio and television.

He said he was taking this initiative, "in appreciation for your evenhanded policies toward Arab causes, the foremost of which is the Palestinian cause."

"We are brothers to you. We share the same destiny," Saddam told the Third World countries.

He said he "presumes" that offering free oil "is not included in the U.S. embargo because it does not involve buying or selling and therefore it is not trade."

But recognising Iraq's inability to move any of its oil past patrolling Western navies blockading its outlets, he told Third World countries that if Iraq is prevented from transporting the oil, they might have to make their own arrangements to move it.

In his statement, Saddam said he was worried about the devastating impact on the economies of Third World nations due to a 50 per cent increase in world oil prices since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait five weeks ago.

"The supply of free oil will not be linked to any decision or position taken by a country to the

current crisis because we respect the options of states and nations and do not assume any coincidence of views on all issues," Saddam added.

"Those who decided to invade the oil countries and profane Islamic sanctities did not ask... what harm would befall the Third World as a result of their blatant act," he said.

"We are only upset when one of the imperialist countries tries to impose a position on us by force, reflecting a lack of respect for the Third World and a lack of equality," he added.

"At a time when monopolist oil companies are reaping unlawful profits as a result of this crisis, they left Third World countries reel under the impact of higher oil prices as a result of their crime."

Saddam said he was sure these poor countries would only get leftovers when industrialised world needs are met, even if major tragedies befall you."

He said those accepting his offer should "send us the applications stating the quantity and type of petroleum needed."

He said if Iraq was unable to

ship oil out because of the embargo, "then those countries should arrange for the transportation at their own expense."

Saddam said he took the decision to "ease your burdens and display solidarity with you at a time we are capable of playing such a role."

Pakistan, one of the countries hardest hit by the loss of oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait, said earlier Monday it would receive 60,000 bpd of Saudi oil during the next three months.

Pakistani Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Abdul Majid Malik told reporters after a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia that the kingdom also promised to extend the arrangement for a further six months.

Saudi officials have said similar arrangements were being made to other countries, including Turkey, Jordan, India, Brazil and Taiwan.

Apart from Turkey and Jordan which are getting special deals, officials made clear the kingdom would charge countries market-related prices, which are currently hovering around \$30 a barrel.

EC to invite Arab League to talks, but not Iraq

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) will invite the Arab League to discuss the Gulf crisis next month in Italy but will not invite Iraq from attending the meeting, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said Monday.

He also said the EC was nearing agreement on normalising relations with Iran despite its death threat against British author Salman Rushdie.

De Michelis spoke after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the EC's head office. Italy currently is the group's president.

Earlier Monday, Baker briefed the NATO allies on Sunday's superpower summit in Helsinki and asked them to contribute more ground forces to the Gulf region.

But for now, De Michelis said, the 12 EC nations and the United States agree "it is absolutely necessary to isolate Iraq economically and politically."

He said the EC will invite the 22-member Arab League to a foreign ministers meeting in Venice, Italy, on Oct. 6-7 to discuss aid for nations harmed by the international embargo against Iraq.

"We'll make it very clear" Iraq is not invited, De Michelis told reporters. "We will tell (the league) that Iraq has placed itself... outside the rules of the Arab League."

He stressed the EC opposes linking a solution to the Gulf crisis to "other problems in the Middle East," notably the Palestinian question.

"As long as the Kuwait problem has not been solved, it will be impossible to move on other problems," he added.

De Michelis said the EC feels Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had slowed down the Middle East peace process. Even so, "we will also be inviting the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation)" to Venice, he added.

Last Friday, EC foreign ministers agreed to give \$2 billion in aid to Turkey, Jordan and Egypt to help compensate them for lost trade with Iraq. It's estimated the three countries will lose \$9 billion in trade if the embargo lasts through 1991.

The EC wants rich Arab states, notably Saudi Arabia, to contribute at least two-thirds of compensation to those countries.

On Monday, De Michelis said the EC will study aid measures for other countries in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Baker did not speak to reporters after his meeting at the EC.

Thousands cleared from evacuee camp in desert

Combined agency dispatches

THOUSANDS OF Asians leaving Kuwait and Iraq were flown home or moved from a desert camp Monday as work continued on two camps which will take in evacuees from the desert camp.

Salameh Hammad, head of the government committee handling the evacuee tide, said only 15,000 people remained at the Shaalan 1 camp in the no-man's-land between Iraq and the border post of Ruweished.

According to officials, up to 8,000 Asians, mainly Bangladeshis and Indians, had been flown home from Amman. Thousands more from Shaalan 1 to transit camps between Al Ruweished and the airport.

However, 11,000 more arrived Sunday, including just over 3,000 Asians. Most were Egyptians, whose route home from is now well-organised.

Border officials quoted by Reuters said 10,000 Indians from the border region were being cleared through Al Ruweished Monday evening.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JRCS) strove to install tents, water, electricity and health posts at two new camps designed to take the pressure off the crowded border region (see page 3).

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which is overseeing the airlift, said 7,000 refugees had been flown from Amman to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the past week.

IOM adviser Maroufi Yahya told Reuters the aim was to repatriate 12,000 refugees by next Monday but this would increase if more flights could be organised.

Yahya said an IOM appeal for international aid to accelerate the airlift produced a C-130 transport sent by New Zealand for three flights and an Air France Boeing

747 for five flights.

The Air France Jumbo, chartered by the European Community and France, arrived Monday to ferry 2,500 Bangladeshis to Dhaka. The first flight was due to leave Amman in the evening.

In Islamabad, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Pakistan will send food and medicines to its nationals in Kuwait and Iraq without breaking United Nations economic sanctions.

The first contingent of 20 to 25 tonnes will be flown to Amman within two days to be transported by road to Iraq to meet the urgent needs of diplomats and other Pakistanis, he said.

"This is not aimed at breaking the sanctions. This will be sent as a diplomatic consignment," the spokesman said.

The first shipment would in-

clude flour and rice, the spokesman said. "If it reaches there, we will send more."

The supplies will be taken to Amman by Pakistan International Airlines planes coming to Jordan to evacuate Pakistanis stranded there.

A special assistant to Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said Sunday there were some 90,000 Pakistanis in Kuwait and 30,000 in Iraq before Aug. 2.

He said about 38,000 Pakistanis had fled Kuwait and Iraq and more than 30,000 of them had reached home.

Officials had previously put the number in Iraq at 10,000.

An overcrowded tent city at a remote Turkish border crossing has become a virtual prison for thousands of Bangladeshi refugees escaping from Iraq.

Cholera report dismissed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Senior international officials Monday rejected a report that two people had died from cholera at the desert near the Al Ruweished border post.

"We categorically deny that there was any case of cholera in the camps," said Christophe Dupont of the French organisation, Medecins sans Frontieres, which is running health services at one of the camps, Shaalan II. "We are in close touch with the International Red Cross and various other organisations running other camps, and if there was any case of cholera we would have definitely been told about it," Dupont said when contacted by the Jordan Times to verify a statement made by a Foreign Ministry spokesman in India who had said that two people, one of them an Indian, had died of cholera in one of the camps.

Indian officials, meanwhile, said among relief supplies flown in from India to assist the evacuation process was a large quantity of cholera vaccine. "It is only a precaution," said a senior official. "We have not heard of any actual case of cholera other than in the media," he said. There was no immediate explanation to the report from New Delhi.

Jordanian medical doctors at Shaalan I, which was visited by the Jordan Times Sunday, also said there was no epidemic in the camps. "There were two cases where cholera symptoms were strong, but we found that they were due to the sudden change in the weather," said a senior official of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

Health ministry officials have also denied reports of cholera cases in the camps.

12 Arab states want league shift to Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Twelve Arab countries agreed Monday to move the Arab League's headquarters back to Cairo from the capital of Tunisia.

The decision, announced by the league's assistant secretary-general, was taken at a meeting in Cairo boycotted by Iraq and eight other members of the league.

The headquarters was moved to Tunis after Egypt signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait the Arab World has split into two camps, with Egypt leading countries opposed to Baghdad, and those who say they see

more danger in the growing foreign military presence in the region.

The decision, approved by all 12 members attending, called for the move to be completed by Oct. 31 ahead of an Arab summit scheduled to take place in Cairo in November.

The 12 countries dissolved a five-man committee headed by Iraq set up last March to oversee the move and set up a new one replacing Iraq and Oman with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Syria. Egypt, Tunis and Morocco retained their seats.

(Continued on page 5)

Levy rejects Helsinki idea of peace conference

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy Monday rejected any international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict just 24 hours after U.S. President George Bush said such a conference might be acceptable.

Speaking to American Jewish leaders, Levy said the proposal reminded him of an American film title: "The idea is 'Gone with the Wind'."

He said Israel wanted direct negotiations and would not allow itself to be hauled before a conference that he contended would really be "an international tribunal."

Levy made his comments just a day after Bush told a news conference at his summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki "that under certain circumstances the consideration of a conference of that nature would be acceptable. Indeed, it has been a part of our policy from time to time."

Levy described his talks in Washington last week with Secretary of State James Baker as a success and said it helped forge a new relationship between the two countries.

He said the Israeli finance minister would be arriving in Washington this week to discuss whether the administration would

forgive Israeli military debt as it sought to do with Egyptian military debt last week.

He also said that a high-level delegation would be leaving Israel this week for the Soviet Union for discussions with the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Levy declined to say what was on the agenda, including whether the matters to be discussed included Soviet restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel.

Levy said he was especially pleased that the Bush administration was refusing to link resolving the Gulf crisis to solving the Palestinian question.

"All steps Israel is taking and not taking in this dangerous period are made by taking the interests of the United States into consideration," he told a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations.

He added that although Israel had adopted a "low profile" during the Iraq crisis it did not mean that "Israel stands on the sidelines."

Levy said that Baker told him last week that he planned to go to Syria but assured him that no decision would be taken "behind the back of Israel or at Israel's expense" and that Baker also agreed to visit Israel after his Syrian trip.

Top Deri aide detained

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Tel Aviv court Monday ordered the top aide to Interior Minister Aryeh Deri held for a week on suspicion that he misappropriated government funds, Israeli media said.

Judge Yitzhak Baraz said police had substantial suspicion that Deri's spokesman, Zvi Yaakobson, either pocketed the money or funnelled it into religious institutions for the minister, according to the report carried by Israel Radio and armed forces radio. Police refused comment.

The Deri affair, known as Israel's "Watergate," has eclipsed the Gulf crisis in the Israeli media and raised nerves in the right-wing coalition government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who needs Deri's ultra-orthodox Shas Party to govern.

Deri has denied allegations he channelled public funds through local government councils to religious institutions run by Shas. He was questioned by police last week.

The case also involves wiretapping. Police believe Deri supporters bugged phones of more than 20 journalists and potential witnesses to block prosecution.

Yaakobson was detained Sunday with five other Deri aides for questioning. The others were released later Sunday. On Monday, three of the aides, including Deri's communications adviser Yossi Shvimer, were called back. Two of them were later released.

The report said at the time of his detention Yaakobson was carrying a handwritten note listing 20 ways of tiring investigators.

Some Israeli politicians, including liberal Amnon Rubinstein, have called for Deri to step aside until the investigation is completed.

Attorney General Yosef Harish could order Deri to step down, but has said he would wait with the decision until being briefed by investigators.

"At this point we don't know if the evidence points to the guilt of the suspect... or the innocence," Harish said on Israel Radio.

Fateh takes control of 'Ain Al Hilweh camp

SIDON (AP) — Fateh guerrillas were in full control of the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon Monday after crushing followers of Abu Nidal in three days of savage combat.

Police said at least 80 people have been killed and 250 wounded since Friday, when Fateh guerrillas cracked down on the Fateh-Revolutionary Council in the Ain Al Hilweh shantytown.

The fighting reached its peak Sunday when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters fought hand-to-hand to root out the last of Abu Nidal's followers hiding in a tunnel network under the camp.

The guns fell silent after the 12-hour battle on the southeastern flank of the port city of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, about 40 kilometers south of Beirut.

The city's 350,000 predominantly Sunni Muslim population was on strike for a second day Monday to protest the violence during which mortar and artillery rounds crashed in residential districts in Sidon.

Angry youths barricaded the highway entrances to Lebanon's third largest city with burning car tires as schools, shops, banks, cafes and restaurants remained closed.

Traffic ebbed to a trickle and hundreds of fishermen called off their daily excursions in the Mediterranean waters.

Posters reading "Hands off Sidon, Palestinian brethren" and "Spare us your wrath" spanned the empty streets.

Reporters and photographers touring the battle-scarred camp found Fateh-Revolutionary Council bases sealed off with fighters from the mainstream PLO Fateh faction guarding them.

Unlike Sidon, all shops and businesses were open in the shantytown that houses nearly 32,000 U.N.-registered refugees. It is the largest among the 13 refugee camps in Lebanon.

Police said Fateh has taken prisoner more than 100 of Abu Nidal's 300 fighters in Ain Al Hilweh, about 40 were killed and the rest fled to Majdaloun, eight kilometers east of Sidon.

Younis Awad, called the outcome of the fighting a "final victory" that brought all refugee camps in South Lebanon under undisputed PLO control.

Fateh crushed a 200-man Abu Nidal unit in the Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the port of Tyre, 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Sidon, in June.

Police officials expressed fears that Fateh's victory will trigger retaliation by the remnants of Abu Nidal's organisation.

"We're going to see a wave of assassinations, bombings and kidnappings against Fateh, said one official, who declined to be named.

Abu Nidal whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, is now based in Libya.

He broke away from Fateh in 1973, and the PLO sentenced him to death in absentia for killing several PLO officials.

Palestinian boy says Israelis forced him to drink urine

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — A 13-year-old Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip said Monday Israeli soldiers forced him to drink urine when he asked for water while in detention.

Mohammad Ehmadi from Sha'uf refugee camp told Reuters Israeli soldiers beat him and bound him with handcuffs.

"When I asked for water to drink, they put something in my mouth. It was bitter and stinky water and then I realised it was urine," he said.

Ehmadi was arrested Sunday on suspicion of throwing stones during clashes between soldiers and camp residents. He was released late Sunday night.

An army spokesman said he was checking the report.

Clashes flared in the occupied territories Sunday and Monday after a relative lull in the 33-month-old uprising.

Troops and Palestinians fought in Khan Younis refugee camp in Gaza Monday after two children were wounded.

Military sources said a boy of 12 and his six-year-old sister were wounded when a hand grenade they had dug up in their yard blew up. The boy lost his hand and the girl was in shock, hospital officials said.

The Czechoslovak-made grenade was not used by the Israeli army, the military sources said.

Rumours the children were hurt by an object that fell from a plane sparked clashes in the camp. Israeli military sources and Palestinian journalists in Gaza said the rumour appeared to be false.

In the occupied West Bank, seven people were wounded in Tulkarm refugee camp in a clash between rival Palestinian groups, residents said.

Palestinians threw stones and bottles at military patrols in the West Bank town of Jenin Monday. Soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets but no injuries were reported.

A roadside charge exploded overnight near an army jeep close to the West Bank town of Ramallah but caused no damage, the army said.

In Tel Aviv a bomb went off in the central bus station but no-one was injured.

Police detained 30 people in the area. Israel Radio said fights broke out between Arabs and Jews at the crowded station.

Abu Sharif warns of 'tremendous explosion in the Middle East'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza is unbearable, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Bassam Abu Sharif said Monday.

Abu Sharif called on the international community to intervene and rid the Palestinians of Israeli occupation.

"Israeli oppression and its harsh economic policies have denied the Palestinians their basic needs for minimum living," Abu Sharif said in a statement telefaxed to the Jordan Times.

He said that ending Israeli occupation would be the solution for the Palestinian plight aggravated by the new developments in the Gulf.

On the outcome of the Hel-

sinki summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Abu Sharif said the U.S. had "ignored" the Palestinian problem now for 23 years.

"Not only that, the U.S. was and is still providing Israel with all aid it needs to maintain its occupation and used its veto right in the Security Council tens of times to block any resolution pertaining to occupation and Palestinian rights," he said.

"The American administration is wrong when it ignores the Palestinian people's rights. The Palestinians have been patient for a long time, but patience has limits," he warned.

Abu Sharif, who is political advisor to PLO Chairman Yas-

ser Arafat, said that the Palestinian leader had issued instructions to Palestinians in the Gulf not to carry arms.

"Any attempts to smear the reputation of the PLO or distort the Palestinian image will not distort the truth nor conceal it," he said, referring to the Gulf states' media campaign against Arafat and the PLO.

Abu Sharif said the PLO made its stand clear for both superpowers. "We back a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and all other Middle East crises," he said. Unless all Middle East problems are solved "a tremendous explosion will engulf the whole region," Abu Sharif warned.

Iraqis stage protest against Bush, Fahd and Mubarak

BAGHDAD (R) — Thousands of Iraqis took to the streets Monday to denounce U.S. President George Bush for his hardline opposition at the Helsinki summit to Baghdad's seizure of Kuwait.

Demonstrators burnt effigies of Bush, Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak outside the U.S. and British embassies in Baghdad.

People wearing crude look-alike masks of the leaders stood outside the embassies. They carried placards written in Arabic "Criminal Bush," "Traitor Fahd," and "Traitor Hosni."

Around them about 10,000 mostly Iraqi men, women and children chanted in support of President Saddam Hussein. Some waved placards calling for the downfall of Bush, Fahd and Mubarak.

"Oh Saddam, your name has shaken America," they sang. "With our blood and soul we redeem you Saddam," they cried.

Witnesses said there were large numbers of Egyptians and Sudanese among the demonstrators, led by leaders of Iraq's labour and other professional unions.

The crowd also voiced anger at the United Nations trade embargo being enforced by dozens of U.S., British and French warships in the Gulf.

"No surrender even if we starve to death," read one placard. Another said "The economic blockade will fail and Iraq will triumph."

Police closed roads leading to both embassies but no incidents were reported.

Iraq bitterly criticised Bush Sunday after his summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. It said the U.S. president was "possessed by evil spirits" for rejecting Saddam's proposal to link a settlement of the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian issue.

It said Bush's remarks in Helsinki in which he insisted on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait "reflected his evil intentions and his hatred for the Arab Nation."

Baghdad referred to Thatcher as "an old hag" over her support for the multinational military buildup in the Gulf.

Iran, Iraq to restore ties (Continued from page 1)

Tehran would pursue peace with Iraq regardless of Baghdad's motives.

The two ministers also agreed Sunday to set up a joint committee meeting alternately in Tehran and Baghdad to ensure the repatriation of all prisoners of war (POWs). Iran and Iraq have exchanged more than half their estimated 100,000 POWs since mid-August.

Rafsanjani called for speedy demarcation of the border and its reopening for pilgrimage to shrines of Shi'ite Muslim imams in both countries.

Visiting Karbala, Najaf and other holy towns in Iraq would be of great emotional value to devout Iranians who for the past three years have been deprived of Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca because of a dispute with Saudi Arabia.

An Arab diplomat in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks would "open a new era of bilateral and regional cooperation between the two regional superpowers."

During their talks, Aziz explained Baghdad's position in the Gulf and Yelayati reiterated Iranian condemnation of the takeover

of Kuwait.

Meanwhile Iraq is redeploying over 100,000 troops from its frontier with Iran to face new potential threats on its borders with Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Syria, Turkish military sources quoted by Reuters said Monday.

They said Iraq was moving three divisions, each comprising about 11,000 men, to join five divisions already near its rugged 240-kilometre frontier with Turkey.

Foreign military sources said Baghdad had sent three extra divisions to the Syrian frontier and about five to join the main concentration of its troops in the south facing 200,000 Arab and Western troops in Saudi Arabia.

Iraq began withdrawing its remaining forces from captured Iranian territory Aug. 17.

The foreign sources said Iraq had been maintaining seven army corps, each of up to four divisions, along the frontier with Iran.

The Turkish sources said the reinforcement of Iraqi troops on the northern frontier posed no immediate military threat to Turkey, which has the largest armed forces in the NATO alliance after the United States.

Saud indicates imminent ties with Kremlin

JEDDAH (AP) — Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal has indicated that diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union were imminent.

"There are serious contacts between the two countries in this connection," he commented Sunday to the Associated Press over the prospects for such ties.

His comments confirmed the approaching diplomatic goal of what has been a process of increasing contacts aimed at mutual diplomatic recognition by Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union.

Diplomatic sources said they expected the establishment of the Riyadh-Moscow official links before the month was out. They said that Prince Saud was starting a foreign tour on Thursday which was to include a stop in Moscow.

Prince Saud said that economic cooperation between the two countries was long-standing.

"Our contacts with the Soviet government are continuing and good and there is understanding on all issues," he added.

The Saudi minister's statement was made shortly after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush wound up their summit in Helsinki on the Gulf crisis.

Prince Saud's statement indicated satisfaction with the Soviet summit position seeking Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union never officially broke their diplomatic relations half a century ago when the Soviet ambassador was recalled home in a purge shortly after the modern kingdom was founded by King Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

But the theocratic kingdom, which fostered strong ties with the United States, resisted continued relations with Moscow. The underlying reasons was an official aversion to communism which was considered akin to atheism.

For the same reason, the kingdom did not have relations with China until last July despite the development of trade ties to an extent that involved Beijing's supply of long-range ballistic missiles to the kingdom.

Prospects of relations in recent years were further thwarted by the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, a cause for which Saudi Arabia campaigned on pan-Islamic grounds.

In light of Gorbachev's reforms, and the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan, the prospects for diplomatic relations improved, although Saudi Arabia had still been supporting the Mujahideen resistance demand for an Islamic government in Kabul.

Prince Saud has visited Moscow several times for talks about the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war, soliciting the superpower's support for Arab positions.

Aside from trade relations, there was also contact over the oil market situation.

In advance of the last pilgrimage season in Mecca, King Fahd decided that over 1,000 Soviet Muslims would be state guests.

Mecca meeting seeks to defend Saudi stand

MECCA (AP) — The leader of the Muslim World League (MWL) Monday shrugged off as contrary to Islamic principles Saddam Hussein's call for holy war against the U.S.-led multinational force.

"Holy war is against enemies of Islam, not against peaceful neighbouring countries," said MWL Secretary-General Abdullah Omar Nasseef.

He spoke at the opening of a league conference here aimed at fending off Saddam's criticism of Saudi rulers for allowing in the multinational force.

The conference is also expected to rally support in the Muslim World towards a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis.

More than 270 Islamic scholars from 60 countries are participating in the four-day conference organised by the Mecca-based body.

"We should come out with clear recommendations on how to end the crisis according to the spirit of Islam which is against injustice and aggression," said Nasseef.

He stressed that the Saudi rulers remain responsible for Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina, and added that it was permissible under Islam to seek the help of foreign forces to ward off dangers.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Baz, a renowned Saudi scholar, shared the same view.

"At times of grave dangers you can seek the help of Muslim and non-Muslim armies," he said.

In a message delivered on his behalf, Saudi King Fahd said he sought the help of Arab, Islamic and friendly troops after he became certain that Iraq was amassing "large numbers" of troops along the Saudi borders.

"We then had to bolster our religious, security and historic responsibility. We asked for Arab, Islamic and friendly forces. This is our right under Islamic Sharia," he said. The king's message was read by Abdullah Ben Abdul Mohsen Al Turki, rector of Imam Mohammad Ben Saud Islamic University in Riyadh.

"The presence of the foreign forces in our land was necessary."

tated by the invasion of Kuwait and the amassing of Iraqi troops along our borders," the king added. "The minute the reason for which these troops were brought is over, we will ask them to leave."

Sources close to the conference expected the scholars to issue a unanimous denunciation of Saddam for Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, support the steps taken by Saudi Arabia and call for the return of the Al Sabah ruling family to Kuwait.

But there was some criticism of the assembly of the U.S.-led multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, prime minister of the interim Afghan Mujahideen government, told the conference it was not in accordance with Islamic tenets to use non-Muslim armies to defend Muslim countries.

"We strongly denounce the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but at the same time will not be willing to leave the defense of the sacred lands to non-Muslim forces," he said.

Sayyaf called for a pan-Islamic force to replace the non-Arab military presence.

He also said that if Saddam is sincere in seeking the exit of the Western forces, he should pull out of Kuwait "in order to end any justification for the presence of the foreign troops."

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, currently living in Saudi exile, described the Iraqi invasion of his country as "a savage armed aggression."

In a message read on his behalf by Youssef Al Hajji, a former Kuwaiti religious affairs minister, the emir charged all the welfare institutions in Kuwait had been turned into prisons by the Iraqis.

"Mosques have been converted into military barracks to spread destruction and the invading Iraq forces have spared neither honour nor money nor blood," he said. "Hundreds of thousands of nationals of Kuwait and Arab and Islamic countries have been rendered destitute, and Islamic and other institutions have been pillaged."

Book on Mossad creates stir in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's intelligence community is furious over a new book by former secret service agent that supposedly reveals sensitive secrets of the Mossad spy agency, Israeli newspapers reported Monday.

Major newspapers carried front-page stories on the book "By Way of Deception," whose publication Israel succeeded in blocking in Canada amid reports that its claims about the spy agency could harm relations with the United States and other allies.

The author, Victor Ostrovsky, was quoted in Israeli papers Monday as saying two Mossad agents had threatened to kill him if he went ahead with plans to publish the book.

"I'll end up dead over this story... its only a matter of time until they do away with me," Ostrovsky told the daily Yediot Ahronot. He was also quoted as saying Mossad agents might try to kidnap him and imprison him in Israel.

Following an Israeli request, an Ontario court temporarily blocked release of the 300-page book co-authored by Ostrovsky and Canadian journalist Claire Hoy. Next week the court is expected to consider an Israeli request to ban the book altogether.

A foreign ministry spokesman confirmed Israel was trying to prevent the book's release. The daily Haaretz quoted officials as

saying Israel was not taking legal action because of the book's contents but because Ostrovsky became a standard agents' agreement not to reveal information about the Mossad.

One of the book's claims is that Israel failed to pass on the United States advance information on a suicide car bomb attack on U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut in 1983. The bombing killed more than 240 American servicemen.

Ostrovsky writes this information was withheld from the Americans in order to harm U.S.-Arab relations. He also says Israel has been spying extensively on the United States and using hundreds of forged Canadian passports.

The newspaper reports carried criticism of Ostrovsky by several unnamed Mossad agents and other officials.

A senior Mossad agent told Hadashot that Ostrovsky had only been an apprentice for a few months and was dismissed because he was found "not appropriate."

"Many things in his book are incorrect and he relies on gossip and rumours," a security source was quoted as saying in the Al Hamishmar newspaper.

The daily Yediot Ahronot reported, however, that police found highly classified material including secret reports, pictures and lists in an apartment in central Israel where Ostrovsky lived before returning to Canada.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 7111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
17:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:15 Documentary
18:30 Des chiffres et de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 End of an Empire
22:00 News in English
22:20 Martin Luther King

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
06:12 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhuhur
15:53 Asr
18:12 Maghrib
18:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, 5-Weilsh Tel 517040.

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785, 683326.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637480.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terranova Church Tel. 623366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 623445.

Arcadian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.

Arcadian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 71751.

Amman International Church Tel. 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811125.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 649552.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp. 18. 50

Amman 26 / 77

Deserts 20 / 35

Jordan Valley 25 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 30, Amman 34 Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent, Amman 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Agwar Agwarabaw 62096

Dr. Mohammad Houran 68552

Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj 11020

Dr. Arafat Al Ashbab 62527

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 78336

Al Asema pharmacy 67555

Naroukh pharmacy 62367

Al Salan pharmacy 63673

Yasvoh pharmacy 64648

Shmeican pharmacy 67566

IBRD:

Dr. Mohammad Khalil 623101

Al Shams pharmacy 952351

ZARQA:

Dr. Zaid Ju'ntem 1

Khalifah pharmacy 95417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 637777

Civil Defence Emergency 109

Fire Brigade 801228

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 806390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 609800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 807467

Complaints 807467

Amman Municipality 787111

Repairs 010230

Overseas Calls 623101

General Amman Telephone

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal decree appoints ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal decree has been issued Monday approving the appointment of Mohammad Al Adwan as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Finland, Farouq Al Sirrawi as Jordan's ambassador to Japan and Hassan Abu Ne'ma as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Portugal.

Qatari leader cables Prince Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Monday a cable from the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani in reply to Prince Hassan's congratulatory cable on the occasion of Qatar's independence day. Khalifah expressed his appreciation of Prince Hassan and wished him continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Faqir inaugurates mosque

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir Monday inaugurated A'isha Umm Al Mu'tamin Mosque in Umm Uthayna area. On the occasion Faqir delivered a speech in which he highlighted the role of mosques in propagating the message of Islam. The total cost of the new mosque reached JD 750,000, donated by Mohammad Amis Al Zaben, a citizen.

Jordan, India discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher met Monday with Indian Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade V.D.N. Rao, and discussed with him ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy and mineral resources. Taher also received the newly-appointed Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Abdul Hussein Ibrahim.

British minister to come to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Minister for Overseas Development Lynda Chalker will be visiting Jordan from 11-14 September. The purpose of her visit will be to supervise the British contribution to the relief operation for refugees in Jordan and to assess what further assistance is needed.

American relief aid arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A plane load of about 40 metric tonnes of food, medicines, and other relief supplies valued at approximately \$1 million arrived in Amman today to assist the Kingdom in meeting the immediate food and other humanitarian needs of refugees entering Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq. This consignment was immediately trucked to Al-Ruweished area where the problem is most acute. The aid is donated by AmeriCares, an American private sector non-profit organisation which accepts donations from private companies and facilitates delivery to those in need.

RSCN defines areas, seasons for hunting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Monday issued a statement in which it defined areas in Jordan where bird hunters can practice their hobby and said that partridges and doves of different types can be hunted only between Sept. 15 and Nov. 30.

The statement said that a hunting programme, which was endorsed by Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat, is intended to help organise the practice of hunting birds in the country and to protect species of different types.

The RSCN Director-General Maher Abu Jaifar cautioned hunters to abide by the instructions in order to safeguard wildlife in the Kingdom. He said that violators of the regulations could face prosecution and the confiscation of shot guns. He said that all hunters should make sure that they hold valid licences and abide by the RSCN's schedule of seasons for hunting different types of animals and birds in the Kingdom. Jaifar said a special map, dividing Jordan into six different hunting zones, could be obtained from the RSCN. The RSCN takes charge of the task of preserving wildlife in the country and has set up more than seven wildlife reserves where various types of animals and birds live freely.

Housing Bank to grant loans for income-generating projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Bank is finalising arrangements for providing loans to small-size income-generating projects and is giving preference to those plans intended to be carried out at locations outside the capital Amman.

An official at the Housing Bank said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that technical and administrative procedures were being reviewed to implement this programme as soon as possible. This programme is designed to encourage capital holders to invest in new projects which can employ local job-seekers and can earn investors added income, and also meet the needs of the local community, the official said.

"Such projects do not only generate income to investors by producing commodities demanded by the local market but products can also be exported to earn the country badly needed hard currency," the official added. Referring to the volume of credit facilities to be granted by the Housing Bank, the official said that these can be determined in the light of the nature of the new schemes which could be in the industrial services or agri-

cultural sectors, depending on the size of each plan. He noted that the Housing Bank was interested in initiating projects in the rural regions of Jordan and outside main cities, especially Amman, to help raise their residents' standard of living.

According to the official, applications for loans can be submitted at Housing Bank branches in Jordan as of the beginning of October 1990.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced in Parliament earlier this year that special attention would be given to small and medium size projects which can absorb part of the country's job-seekers and generate income.

On his statement on Feb. 3, the prime minister said that the government would create a proper climate, giving incentive to Jordanian organisations to export services and products. He said laws would give incentives to small businesses so that they could become attractive to investors. He told Parliament then that the country was grappling with the problem of unemployment, and was keen to find work for the nearly 80,000 Jordanian job-seekers.

Relief workers review assistance to evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team representing the Red Cross Society in the Netherlands arrived in Jordan for a several-day visit to help Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) organise relief operations for evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

JNRCS officials said that the team brought with it a plane load of relief supplies for the evacuees to be distributed at the Ruweished and Shaalan One Camp evacuees who are cared for by the JNRCS.

The Dutch team will also tour Al Azraq evacuee camp set up by the JNRCS in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The JNRCS Monday also announced the arrival here of a delegation representing the Iraqi Red Crescent Society led by Dr. Ibrahim Al Nouri. Nouri will hold talks with JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura on the prospect of establishing an international committee to give due care to the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Nouri said that he would also discuss the possibility of organising a seminar in Amman on the human dimensions of the Gulf crisis.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Socie-

ty, Nouri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, is currently providing medical and social services to the foreign and Arab families stranded in Iraq, and has set up a number of camps for the Asian expatriates heading for Jordan.

Meanwhile a workshop to study and promote relief operations for the evacuees ended at Al Andalus evacuee camp south of Amman Monday.

The workshop, organised by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in cooperation with the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRO) and the United Nations Higher Commission for the Refugees, reviewed relief operations in emergencies in general and ways to deal with the human tragedy resulting from the presence of tens of thousands of expatriates in Jordan.

All the participants in the workshop were volunteers from Jordan who carried out training and practices throughout the seven-day gathering, according to a QAF statement.

It said that the participants were oriented on managing relief operations and taking charge of evacuees' camps, especially in

providing medical and other basic relief supplies.

In the meantime the flow of evacuees across the Ruweished border post continued and according to the Public Security Department (PSD) a total of 17,514 expatriates crossed into Jordan from Iraq Sunday. These included Egyptians, Sri Lankans, Bengalis, Indians, Yemenis, Sudanese, Pakistanis, Thais, Filipinos and Turks in addition to a few number of European nationalities.

The PSD said that two other border posts, Al Omari and Al Mudawara, Sunday witnessed the arrival of 247 and 114 expatriates respectively.

The statement said that the number of people arriving in Amman through the Queen Alia International Airport was 592, including 31 Indians, 35 Americans, 45 Iraqis, and 99 different European and Arab nationalities.

To facilitate communications with the Ruweished border post for the benefit of journalists and evacuees alike, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has just announced the installation of a facsimile machine at the Ruweished post office. The TCC gave the Ruweished facsimile number as: 613123.

UNESCO sets 2000 target date for eradicating illiteracy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has issued an appeal to all countries of the world to adopt and implement educational programmes designed to eradicate illiteracy in the world by the year 2000, Minister of Education and

Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan said Monday. "UNESCO-proposed programmes are designed to be carried out by national governments and regional and international organisations in urban and rural areas alike with special attention to be given to women," said

Hamdan upon returning from the UNESCO conference held in Geneva last week.

Hamdan was one of 123 delegates, including 47 ministers of education, taking part in the six-day meeting to discuss UNESCO's strategies to eradicate illiteracy by the end of the century.

"The conference underlined the importance of eradicating illiteracy, viewed as a social disease, and the need to provide basic education for all people and promote international cooperation in this respect in the 1990s," the minister said in his statement.

Jordan has more than 500 adult education and literacy centres which can accommodate more than 40,000 learners, according to Ministry of Education sources.

Jordan cannot shoulder the burden of evacuees — Arar

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amid growing concern over the influx of evacuees arriving here from Iraq and Kuwait and the strain on Jordan's resources in the course of feeding and accommodating the tens of thousands of expatriates, a call has been made by the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament to close the border and put an end to the flow of people until arrangements have been made for their repatriation.

"Jordan is a small nation with very limited resources and facing difficult economic conditions that don't permit it shoulder such an enormous task, therefore the border posts should be closed until further notice," Suleiman Arar said in an interview with Al Rai and the Jordan Times newspapers.

"Since countries whose nationals are stranded in the desert and the camps are not really concerned about their safety, why should Jordan be asked to bear the consequences," Arar asked.

He said the expatriates could have gone home through other means and other borders saving Jordan a great deal of unneeded burden.

Having to put up and feed more than 90,000 nationals, Jordan has been seeking help from international organisations whose contributions have been late to come as was admitted by French Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner in Amman last week.

An Italian journalist, who had

visited the evacuee centres in Ruweished, said that international organisations were wasting their time and effort by trying to care for the evacuees in makeshift tents instead of spending all the money on transporting them to their countries.

"According to estimates the cost of transporting the evacuees to their home countries amounts to \$46 million, but much more funds are needed for feeding and accommodating the expatriates," the journalist said.

Officials at the Ministry of Supply said that the continuous drain on the country's food resources is causing the ministry a nightmare. They say Jordan offers nearly 100,000 meals of bread, milk, cheese and vegetables every day to the evacuees but, of course, part of this food comes through the relief organisations. Yet, this continued process is placing a heavy strain on the country and depletes the stocks in the markets since some of the relief organisations buy their needs locally.

Sources at the Jordanian Ports Corporation told this reporter that no vessels laden with food supplies are scheduled to dock at Aqaba between now and the end of the year since the ministry had assumed that its stocks should suffice the Kingdom for several months.

According to ministry sources three camps of evacuees housing 56,000 people consumes 180,000 loaves of bread on a daily basis, provided by the Ministry of Supply's bakeries.

Jordan has been providing

medical services and health care to the evacuees through mobile medical units and ambulances and medical teams under very difficult climatic conditions.

According to Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Mamdouh Al Ahbadi, Jordan is threatened by an outbreak of epidemics as a result of the presence of hundreds of thousands of expatriates who live in unhygienic conditions.

"Concerned world organisations should move fast and prevent a human disaster since the co-existence of a multitude of inhabitants in sub-human conditions for a long time is bound to cause a dangerous health situation not only for these people but for Jordan as a whole," Ahbadi said.

He called for the closure of the border with Iraq to avert a catastrophe. Ahbadi said that a number of Jordanian families have employed maids from among the evacuees in a bid to escape paying the required fees to the Jordanian authorities, but they failed to give proper attention to the health conditions of these maids.

According to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation each evacuee requires up to 40 litres of drinking water a day; assuming there are 100,000 expatriates in Jordan now, their total daily consumption is 10,000 cubic metres.

Most of the water is provided from Jordan's meagre water resources and according to estimates the total expatriates' needs accounts to two per cent of the total water production capacity, at the cost of JD 8,000 a day.

31,500 will be repatriated before September 20 — IOM

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week after the start of the airlift and the appeal to governments for contribution in cash and kind to evacuate stranded foreigners in Jordan, "the situation looks more optimistic," an IOM official said today. Pledged contributions of some \$30 million have been announced for transportation, that have enabled the IOM to schedule 107 flights to take place before September 20, that would repatriate over 31,500 stranded persons.

"Our priorities are still repatriations to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka," the IOM official said, "but we have started to repatriate Pakistanis and Filipinos at their governments' request."

So far, the repatriation movement stands as follows: 4,428 persons have been repatriated to Bangladesh on 19 flights; 1,463 to Sri Lanka on 8 flights; 201 to Pakistan on 2 flights paid for by the New Zealand government and 84 to the Philippines on one flight.

"The governments have responded fast and generously to our appeal. In view of the situation, however, it is still not sufficient. By the 20th of September, we would have moved one third only of the estimated 105,000 stranded people already in Jordan," commented the IOM official. Massive influx is reported every day at the border and arrivals outnumber departures.

Not only does the IOM need financial contributions, but also contributions in-kind. "We are very thankful to the French government to have contributed a Boeing 747 to the International Airlift and we appeal to other governments to react likewise."



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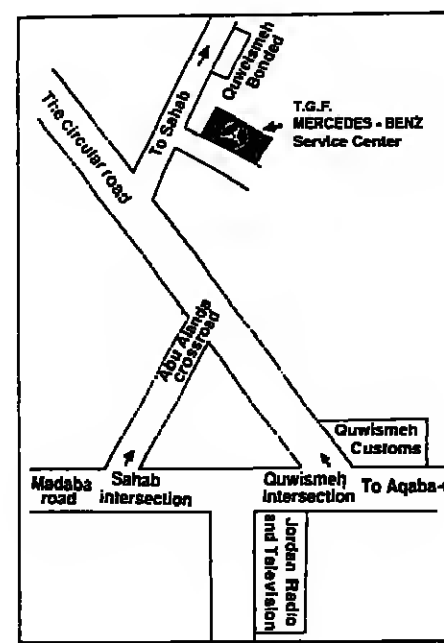
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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajlan — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.
- Art exhibition by Salam Kanaan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- German film entitled "Die Undankbare" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.
- Archaeology video entitled "The Father of Pots: Sir Flinders Petrie" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Link in parallel

IT TOOK the Western world a potentially catastrophic crisis in the Gulf to awaken it to the urgent need of solving the Palestinian conflict. Yet while conceding that much more needs to be done to resolve the Palestinian case, President George Bush took the issue, during his press conference at the conclusion of the Helsinki summit Sunday, with the argument that there must be a link between the resolution of the Gulf crisis with that of the Palestinian conflict. Similar views were also expressed by Britain when its Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said Sunday that once the Gulf crisis has been settled, the Palestinian issue must be addressed. A closer reading of this U.S.-British sense of priorities would suggest that the beginning of the search for a Palestinian settlement would commence at the end of the process that aims to resolve the Gulf crisis. Why the Palestinian conflict is still relegated to the bottom of the ladder in the eyes of Washington and London and its resolution made not only contingent on the resolution of the Gulf crisis but also upon its conclusion is indeed troubling to the Arab parties most concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict. To these parties and all peace-loving nations on earth, the question remains of why the hissing sound of the oil wells in the Gulf is louder than the grumbling pains and suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation — just as the sheep bells of the Falklands rang louder than the church bells of Jerusalem in 1982. At any rate, instead of wasting much precious time debating which came first the egg or the chicken, there is still an honest way out of this dilemma provided there is enough good faith and goodwill in the hearts and minds of the Western leaders. As Bush and Thatcher continue to reject linkage between the two conflicts one may tolerate the distinction being made between the two cases provided that the search for the settlement of two situations are conducted in parallel. In other words the peace process for the two conflicts can be conducted separately but in parallel. Under such a formula, there would be no need for one Middle East conference to deal with the two situations simultaneously but rather there can be two parleys on the two cases conducted concurrently. This way the true intentions of the West, but especially London's and Washington's, would be put to the test and the Palestinian issue can thus be tackled fairly and objectively. Otherwise, the Palestinian people would have to wait for another crisis to erupt somewhere in the region before it receives the undivided attention of the Western world and this would be intolerable.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily said Monday that the change of heart by the U.S. president and Secretary of State James Baker about involving their country in a conflict against Iraq and their talk about a possible political settlement to the Gulf crisis have dealt a hard blow to those who had been advocating war. It seems that many countries began to realise that there is no alternative to a peaceful solution to the crisis based on justice and right. The United States is also approaching this view and is seeing things through a wider scope, said the paper. Iraq for its part, is extending its hand for peace and is expecting the other side to respond favourably, otherwise everybody will lose should the volcano erupt and should war break out, the paper noted. Many world leaders have started to realise now that Washington by no means achieve victory through a military adventure, and can by no means continue exploiting U.N. Security Council resolutions to satisfy its own selfish interests, the paper added. Should the United States launch aggression, it would find itself in a war not only against Iraq but the whole Arab nation, the paper added. It expressed hope that the United States would finally come round to its senses and disengage Britain's mad call for war and give up its aggressive attitude to save itself and the world from the wrath of the Arab and Muslim nations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily on Monday draws attention to the fact that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has done very little to confront the danger inherent in banning medical supplies from Iraq. Salah Abdul Samad says that it is regrettable that WHO which realises the danger is not showing real concern to ensure the well-being of civilians under the present difficult conditions as Iraqi women and children are threatened with starvation and disease. The writer says that the Health Ministry which represents Jordan at WHO is called on to make speedy contacts with organisation's headquarters in Geneva to demand intervention in this matter, and ensure shipments of food and medical supplies to the civilian population of Iraq. Sanctions imposed on Iraq through the U.N. Security Council resolutions should by no means prevent food and medicine from reaching the Iraqi people, and cannot of course mean endangering the lives of innocent lives, said the writer. Abdul Samad urges the Health Ministry to demand an urgent meeting of the WHO regional office which groups representatives of Arab countries who can decide on sending food and medical supplies to the Iraqi people. Abdul Samad says WHO should rise above the international conspiracy being hatched against Iraq and its people, and should refuse to take part in the ongoing process of starving innocent civilians.

It seems that the calls for war and stepping up military activities in the Gulf have fallen on deaf ears at the U.S.-Soviet summit, because the heads of the two major powers have now decided to give way for a political solution to the Gulf crisis, said Al Dustour daily Monday. This outcome is to be regarded as a defeat to those circles which had been advocating war against Iraq specially in London and Tel Aviv, and some Arab capitals, the paper said. Now that the Soviet Union has succeeded in bridling America's lust for war, the Arab masses expect from Moscow to embark on active diplomatic contacts to ensure a peaceful end to the present crisis, the paper said. The Arabs want Moscow to call for an international conference where all the issues of the Middle East region can be put on the table and where all U.N. Security Council resolutions can be implemented. The results of the Helsinki Summit, added the paper, could now pave the ground for Arab mediation efforts to try and resolve the Gulf crisis by peaceful means.

Arabs know better

By Mohammad Tarbush

GENEVA — One does not have to be a political philosopher to see that the status quo in the Middle East cannot be sustained. In the Arab World today, there are too many grievances, too many outstanding injustices and a general malaise, which if left untreated will lead to calamities in the region and beyond. Neither the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein, nor its eventual liberation by the United States and its allies, offer any answers to the legitimate problems of the Arab people.

Millions of Arabs still live below subsistence level, while a few thousand have wealth that neither they nor their descendants could ever live long enough to spend. Such a lopsided situation inevitably leads to instability: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is but a dramatic example.

Organisations such as the European Community help to eliminate these kinds of discrepancies in the Western world. But for the Arab people, such cooperative measures have been whimsical, rarely systematic and invariably modest.

A striking example was the \$300 million annually pledged by Arab leaders at the 1988 Algiers summit to help the 1.5 million Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories. Although \$300 million represented just one-fifth of one per cent of Kuwait's assets abroad, it was never fully paid.

Across the Arab World, economic and financial imbalances strain a political environment saturated with other ingredients for instability and frustration. A million and a half Palestinians still live under military occupation, while another three million are dispersed around the globe. Half of Lebanon's population has joined the Palestinians in their roving, while the other half strives to survive in precarious conditions.

The list could go on. But it is enough to make the point that the present state of affairs in the Arab World is hardly worth spilling any blood to protect.

This is not to say that it was right for Saddam Hussein to invade a peaceful neighbour. Indeed, he must unconditionally allow all Kuwaitis to return to their homes. Nevertheless, whatever

Arabs may feel about Kuwait, most will admit that Saddam Hussein has shaken the region out of its hypnosis. That alone is likely to lead a rallying of Arab nationalists behind Saddam Hussein — not because they approve the invasion of one country by another, not because they approve of his repressive policies at home, but because they disapprove of the status quo.

The Arab World clearly does not need another war; on the contrary, it needs a force to thrust it on the wave of democratisation. No one is more qualified to provide that impetus than the United States and its allies.

Imagine if Western support were given only to those regimes that accept the installation of representative government, lift bans on political parties and a free press. Or to those countries that help redress the outstanding injustices inflicted upon the Palestinians and Lebanese. Or to oil-rich nations that paid half of their oil proceeds to a supranational organisation with the aim of narrowing the gap between rich and poor Arabs.

Only through such measures can long-term stability be



By MICHAEL in Telle de Telle (São Paulo, C&W Syndicate).

achieved and a meaningful and lasting alliance be forged between the Western nations and the Arab World.

The 1990s need new thinking with a fresh view of the world where people, not economic or strategic considerations, are

the main factors and where international crises are solved through patient diplomacy.

President George Bush's success in mobilising so much international support against Iraq clearly shows that the United States has the means

and the clout to solve any crisis through diplomacy. Now is the time to heal the sick body of Arab politics with a heavy dose of America's home-made and cherished medicine: democracy and egalitarianism — International Herald Tribune.

By Sharon Herbaugh
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Her opponents are determined to have Benazir Bhutto remembered as the disgraced leader of Pakistan's most corrupt and incompetent government, not as a martyr for democracy.

When she was dismissed after 20 months in office, they set out to destroy what she called "the myth" — that only a Bhutto could govern Pakistan.

In removing the prime minister and her democratically elected government Aug. 6, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan cited a long list of complaints ranging from corruption and ineptitude to abuse of power.

Ms. Bhutto called it "a constitutional coup" by the establishment, a reference to the generals who ruled Pakistan for most of its history and still have enormous influence.

A caretaker government made up largely of defected allies and bitter critics of Ms. Bhutto has hurried charge after charge to an effort to discredit the Pakistan People's Party founded by her father. Some say her enemies are trying to force her out of politics.

Three former cabinet ministers have been charged in special courts set up to handle corruption cases and to disqualify candidates from elections called for Oct. 24, three years ahead of schedule.

The new government has said at least half a dozen more cases will be filed, possibly against Ms. Bhutto.

Many Pakistanis see the tribunals as "kangaroo courts" evoking memories of the process her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, underwent 13 years ago after Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul Haq overthrew him. Bhutto was hanged two years later.

"There are glaring similarities

Opponents set out to disgrace Benazir Bhutto

with 1977, but there also are differences," Ms. Bhutto said in a recent interview at her fortress-like home in Karachi. "The wind of democracy has come across the world. There is a new future ahead and it will not be easy for them to drag Pakistan backward."

Opponents have not presented concrete evidence to support their charges, and the family name still carries much of its old magic for many. Wherever she goes, Ms. Bhutto draws large crowds that chant "Benazir, Benazir is innocent."

On Sept. 8, her Pakistan People's Party said she, her mother, husband and father-in-law will all be candidates for the federal legislature in next month's election.

Pakistanis have become increasingly cynical about the future of their stop-and-start democracy.

Since its creation as a Muslim homeland 43 years ago, when the Indian subcontinent became independent of Britain, Pakistan has endured three wars, three internal insurgencies and three military dictators.

Two prime ministers, a president, several high-ranking generals and countless politicians and religious leaders have been assassinated. Thirteen governments have been dismissed and three constitutions written.

"Many are wondering whether there is something sick, something terminal festering deep

down in the political soul of Pakistan," said political analyst Akhtar Ahmed. "It is a cycle of despair, military rule and terror, civilian rule and anarchy."

Nobody said it would be easy to lead this volatile country of 110 million out of the social and economic problems a decade of martial law created, but never was such a legacy of admiration and goodwill squandered so swiftly.

Ms. Bhutto — just 37 years old, inexperienced and Western-educated — pursued a policy of confrontation rather than compromise. Opponents considered her arrogant and vindictive, and spared no effort to bring her down.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In her eagerness to become prime minister, she promised to share power with the president and the army chief of staff, Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg. She tried to play one against the other, but they united against her.

She infuriated Beg by meddling in army promotions, something she promised not to do. Her policy on Kashmir was unclear and her public statements of support for militant Muslims in the disputed territory antagonised India, Pakistan's hostile neighbour.

She displayed only nominal interest in finding a peaceful settlement to the 12-year-old civil war in neighbouring Afghanistan and

allow nearly 4 million Afghan refugees to return home from Pakistan.

She appears to have tolerated corruption and greed among senior ministers and allegedly allowed her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, to plunder state-run banks, dole out public jobs and demand commissions on lucrative government contracts.

The last straw was a breakdown of law and order, especially in southern Sindh province, Ms. Bhutto's home and power base.

"People in the villages expect corruption and arrogance from the rich and powerful, but they also expect security and sympathy," said Ahmed, the political analyst. "When social order is disrupted and kidnappings and senseless killings become commonplace, the equation is disturbed."

When warfare broke out between rival ethnic groups in late May, taking hundreds of lives, Ms. Bhutto showed little reaction. The army, called in to restore order, was greeted as a saviour.

Close friends and associates warned Ms. Bhutto the president was going to use his constitutional power and dismiss her government but she did not believe them.

One adviser made a last-ditch appeal to the president, but was told it was too late.

Ms. Bhutto acknowledges her former ministers "are not all angels," but makes no apologies. She denies wrongdoing and paints a picture of an administration that improved the nation.

"I have no regrets; I was not betrayed by the people," she said. "Given half the chance, I am sure the people will elect us. Yes, the victimisation has begun. It is meant to intimidate us. But we are not the people to run away from the field."

LETTERS

Who is being biased?

To the Editor:

IN an article titled "Western media — biased coverage, concealed truth," and published in the Jordan Times Sunday Sept. 9, 1990, the writer indicated that last Tuesday, the French Embassy would have stopped any contact between journalists and French citizens, recently arrived from Baghdad and Kuwait. The target of this attempt, according to the writer, was to avoid any declaration by the French citizens on the good manner in which they were treated by the Iraqis.

This article seems to be based on untrue information. It is unfriendly vis-a-vis my country as well as myself.

I had personally welcomed these two groups of French citizens recently arrived from Baghdad.

Last Tuesday, the first group of 42 French women and children indeed arrived at the Queen Alia International Airport by a chartered Iraqi flight. Press and television, 200 journalists and photographers, were present. Several reporters, namely French, were able to talk to my fellow citizens. Their conversation was largely published by the international papers.

On Wednesday, a second chartered flight arrived carrying 62 French citizens on board. However, they were supposed to take another flight to Paris two hours later; so they stayed in a transit room (Gate 11) and were not able to be in touch with the press.

The French people were not complaining about physical beat treatment from the Iraqi authorities and the press reflected this fact.

I don't think, however, that one could conclude, as the writer, Mr. Khaled Mabadeen, did, that they were "happy and looking as if they were just returning from an enjoyable holiday." Their status as hostages and the fact that these women and children were obliged to leave, painfully, their husbands or fathers behind, is more conducive to distress than to smiling. I think that the writer's wife or his children would have been in the grip of this kind of distress if they were in the same situation.

I believe, I have been a good friend of Jordan, as I have consistently tried to cement and further improve French-Jordanian relations at all levels. Neither distortion of facts nor misrepresentation of the truth will affect our endeavours to further strengthen this friendship.

Denis Bauchard
Ambassador of France
Amman.

Keep your hate and picture to yourself

The following is the text of a letter sent by the writer to Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Britain on Sept. 3:

Returned herewith is your photograph bearing your signature. This photograph was presented to me during your visit to my country, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in 1986. I had, the honour to serve my country, through acting as escort officer to yourself and to your husband.

Since that time, I have kept this picture in a distinguished place in my home and I always regarded it as a valuable memento and a British symbol.

It was hoped that your picture would contribute to obliterate the unfavourable and ill-reputed image of Britain among our people, caused by past records of unjust oppression against the Arabs throughout history, particularly in our occupied land — Palestine.

Unfortunately, that hope was dashed due to renewal of British oppression in a manner worse than we had experienced during the early history of colonialism. This is now manifested in the unjust, and malicious stands which you have demonstrated against our countries and leaders namely His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal and His Excellency President Saddam Hussein.

I now find that due to these factors, I can no longer keep your picture in the same spirit in which I felt at the outset. Therefore, I decided to return it to its original source.

It would be my great pleasure, Mrs. Thatcher, to return this picture to its original place in my home if you could demonstrate to us your desire to improve the falling image of your country among Arabs by reversing the threatening and shameful oppression which you are posing against our people, children and our honest and noble leaders.

I hope, Mrs. Prime Minister, that you will be given more guidance, foresight, and integrity in serving the interest of your country.

Believe me, Mrs. Thatcher, your malicious machination to foil the progress of our countries and your aggressive attitude in this crisis has made every Arab tremble with anger and revulsion.

Mohammed Rifai
International Law Consultant
Retired Army Colonel
Amman

Gorbachev wins Bush aid pledge, acceptance of Middle East role

By Robert Evans
Reuters

HELSINKI — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev emerged from his summit with U.S. President George Bush with a valued pledge of economic aid and recognition that Moscow is a key player in the troubled Middle East.

He took away the prizes without softening his insistence that political action must remain the prime means to end the Gulf crisis and force Moscow's one-time ally Iraq to end its occupation of Kuwait.

Both provided a bonus for the Kremlin chief to carry back to his own capital, where he faces mounting political and social turmoil and charges that he is losing his grip on the helm of the Soviet state.

"I think Gorbachev can be well satisfied with the outcome of this meeting," commented one long-time East European analyst of Soviet affairs. "Nothing that has happened here can do him anything but good at home or abroad."

The Soviet stand during the Gulf crisis so far, Bush told a news conference on Sunday as Gorbachev listened with quiet satisfaction, "gets me inclined to recommend as close cooperation in the economic field as possible."

Over the next week, Cor-

bachev has to make vital decisions on the ailing Soviet economy and how quickly to move to a market system. "This promise from Bush will certainly help him," said a Soviet official in Helsinki.

Gorbachev himself underlined how the U.S. view of the Soviet role in the Middle East had undergone a radical transformation over the past year since both declared at last December's summit in Malta that the cold war was over.

With a grin at Bush, he told the assembled media the U.S. president had confided during their seven hours of talks on the Gulf issue that for long Washington believed Moscow had little or no part to play in the region.

As Bush nodded in agreement, he added: "What we have said today is that it is very important for us to cooperate in the Middle East and that it is especially important at this stage."

The long exclusion of Moscow from U.S. efforts to solve the long-running Arab-Israeli dispute still rankles with Soviet policy-makers and some suspect Washington would still like to shape an "American plan" for the area.

In Helsinki, despite differences of emphasis, Gorbachev and Bush appeared to agree that once the Gulf crisis



Mikhail Gorbachev

was out of the way they would tackle the problem that lies at the heart of unrest in the Middle East.

"Our view is that while the problem of Palestine remains unresolved, figures like Saddam Hussein will always arise to use the anger of ordinary Arabs for their own ends," said one Gorbachev aide. "We think Bush accepts that now."

The Soviet leader gave no indication that he would ever favour military action to force Iraq to pull out of Kuwait and bring about the restoration of what both Moscow and Washington regard as the

legitimate government of the ousted emir.

Here, too, he clearly made no concession to Bush, who signalled he accepted the Soviet view that political options should be pursued now that the huge American military presence in the region has secured other countries from Iraqi attack.

But in yet another bonus, Gorbachev won a promise from Bush that U.S. forces would be pulled out of the Gulf and their new bases in Saudi Arabia once the crisis was over.

In Moscow, conservative political figures and military hardliners have argued that the presence of such a powerful American force close to the Soviet Union's southern borders represented a serious security threat.

Gorbachev also clearly resisted any suggestion that he might commit forces of his own if requested by Saudi Arabia. Soviet officials say this would be out of the question "because of the Afghan syndrome," as one put it.

The Soviet Union withdrew its forces from Afghanistan last year after an eight-year intervention aimed at confirming a Marxist regime in power during which, according to official figures, over 13,000 Soviet soldiers died.

A plea for help from wilderness

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

SHAALAN I REFUGEE CAMP IN RUWEISHED — On Saturday morning a sandstorm completely blanketed the squalid refugee camp, blocking everything from view. As the choking dust settled, hundreds of people could be seen sleeping or sitting among heaps of luggage and suitcases at the entrance of the camp.

Most of the people had their heads and faces covered with towels to protect themselves from the daily merciless sandstorms that compound their feelings of desolation.

"Are you a newspaper reporter?" asked a young Indian man whose hair and eyebrows yellowed by dust.

When he received a positive answer he called on other Indians who were eager to recount their plight.

"There are thousands of us here who had lost our tents after we were notified that the embassy was sending buses to take us to Amman," explained the man who said his name was Shankar. But three days had elapsed and more than 3,000 Indians had lost their tents to newcomers while the buses never came, he said.

Inside the refugee camp, groups of Indians and Bangladeshis gathered in front of the Jordanian Red Crescent tent to protest the delay in the evacuation operation. They were all demanding that the supervisors of the camp would allow representatives of each group to go to Amman to get in touch with their embassy.

An overworked Red Crescent relief worker asked them to elect representatives from the two groups to be sent them to Amman.

The squabble has become a daily routine, said the relief worker. But it was a serious indication of the growing frustration of tens of thousands of Asian evacuees, mainly Indians, Pakistanis, and Bangladeshis, who feel trapped in this arid desert camp.

"We are not dogs. We are human beings. Please get us out of here," screamed a man in a Kuwaiti white dishdasha.

"There is not enough of anything here. We want to go home," said Victor Das, an Indian who speaks Arabic.

Many of the refugees have been waiting as long as a week or even ten days for their embassies to send buses to take them to Amman and hopefully to fly them back to their countries. Most women and children have been moved out to other camps near Amman but those who have remained are



THE 'LUCKY' ONES: Asian evacuees awaiting bus to Amman. The lucky ones are those who have been able to get to Amman and are waiting for a bus to take them to their home countries.

Al Ruweished desert post. "It's like a Sunday school picnic when compared to the desert camps," that's how a relief official phrased it.



running out of patience. "We want out," shouted some men at the Red Crescent worker who was trying to calm them.

"Shaalani is an oil on fire that cannot stop," said Jim Nuttall, representative of the Save the Children Fund, echoing a warning by Asian women.

Jordanian doctors, however, warn that contagious diseases such as cholera will break out if the evacuation operation does not pick up fast enough.

Despite the 24-hour work of Jordanian and international relief workers, hygiene conditions at the camp are alarming as heaps of rubbish pile between the rough tents. Human excrements — in the absence of sanitation facilities — are spread around the camp.

Except for sandwiches distributed by the Indian embassy to Indian refugees, the daily meals consist mainly of tomatoes, bread and yogurt.

At Shaalan I, a large group of Bangladeshis and Filipinos starts forming before eight

a.m. in front of a volunteer centre set up by the Muslim Brotherhood. The movement's volunteers, wearing the Brotherhood's distinct green headbands, distribute one loaf of bread and tomato each.

"We used to hand out eggs, but today the truck from Amman did not arrive," said a young Brotherhood activist.

Filipinos at the same camp seemed relatively better off and the most organised. Many have brought canned food, including evaporated milk, from Kuwait while the embassy distributes small amounts of rice — less than a kilo for 25 persons — every now and then.

"We collect dry plants to make fire and cook," said Synthia, a former sales assistant at Safeway International in Kuwait.

Young Filipino women said that they have learned to adapt and to try to make the best out of the situation. They said that women go in couples to the desert with huckets of water to

wash and pass their time inside the tents sometimes by playing solitaire and reading.

The Filipinos, like all the other nationalities, are divided into groups with elected leaders. But in the case of the Filipinos, leaders of the groups meet with the representatives of the embassy every evening to discuss problems. "It is the same thing every day. They tell us that the buses are coming and we shall soon go home," Synthia, said who has been at Shaalan I for one week.

The most organised and better equipped camp is Al Ruweished, run by the Save the Children Fund and the World Council of Churches. According to Yacoub Duwani, a Jordanian volunteer, residents of the predominantly Bangladesh camp, get hot meals and enough water.

Water supply in the Shaalan I camp has reportedly increased as the Red Cross is now helping in trucking water in to big plastic tanks dug into the ground.

At the far edge of the camp, however, Jordanian vendors, in trucks and van sell, bread, vegetables, cheese, yoghurt, juice, soft drinks, eggs and even batteries to the refugees. Some of the vendors, deliberately exaggerate the prices but refugees at the Shaalan I were annoyed when the supervisors of the camp sent the vendors away.

"We have no sense of the prices here, but it makes life a lot easier for us to at least buy some food," Synthia said.

But what was most striking for most journalists who visited Ruweished was that there were no real signs of the widely publicised financial and in kind aid from Western countries and Japan.

Conceding that there has been a serious lack of coordination and that international organisations were very late in realising the scale of the problem, relief workers could not really explain the delay of help.

"I am impressed with the Jordanian government's performance," said Nuttall of the Save the Children Fund, who was one of the handful of representatives of the many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which have reportedly pledged full-scale involvement which could be seen around in Ruweished.

There was no trace, at least until Saturday, of any kind of U.N. presence in Ruweished. "I have not seen the U.N.," said Nuttall. "I will be very happy if you can get the U.N. down here," he told journalists.

12 states want league shift

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq led the campaign to restore Egypt's membership of the league and, prior to Egypt's opposition to its take over of Kuwait, to move the headquarters back to Cairo.

The meeting grouped foreign ministers or representatives from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Somalia, Djibouti and the six Gulf Cooperation Council members — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and the ousted regime of Kuwait.

Only nine of the 12 were represented by their foreign ministers. Apart from Egypt, Djibouti has sent its interior minister, and Morocco its ambassador to Cairo.

Iraq, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) opposed last month's Arab summit resolutions condemning Iraq, supporting the deployment of Western forces in Saudi Arabia and pledging to send forces of

their own.

Among the remaining Arab countries, Jordan, Sudan and Mauritania expressed reservations concerning the resolutions, while Algeria and Yemen abstained from voting. Tunisia did not attend the summit.

The formal announcement of the transfer was to have been made at another regular session set for Sept. 17.

However, after the eruption of the Gulf crisis last month Baghdad demanded that the transfer of league headquarters be reconsidered.

Egypt, fearing complications at the Sept. 17 meeting, asked and won majority agreement for an extraordinary meeting in Cairo Monday of the league council at foreign minister level to announce the transfer.

A statement read on behalf of Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, who was slightly hurt in a car crash Saturday and

could not attend the meeting, said the league's return to Cairo had "brought matters back to their correct path."

"I would like to reiterate that Egypt, through close cooperation and continuous coordination with all fellow Arab states, will work hard to keep the Arab League a home for all Arabs for all time," he added.

Delegates said the meeting did not try to elect a successor for Chadi Klibi, the league's Tunisian secretary-general who resigned last week, as it lacked the required quorum of 14 members.

Arab diplomats said Klibi resigned after criticism by Saudi Arabia and Syria that he had failed to persuade more Arab states to send troops to Saudi Arabia.

The 12 agreed to continue construction of a new headquarters building in Tunis, which would now be used for committee work, public relations and protocol.

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Moore wins top seat after hitting rock bottom

By David Stamp
Reuter

WELLINGTON — Mike Moore, who took over from Labour Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer on Tuesday, is a born fighter having struggled off political setbacks and cancer with equanimity.

"My life has been full of difficult situations. I've always got through them. I'm a battler," the 41-year-old former affairs minister said on taking up the job.

"I find myself in a very difficult situation becoming prime minister just eight weeks before an election."

Critics say Moore, a one-time left-winger and anti-Vietnam war campaigner who has drifted to Labour's centre, is strong on ambition but weak on ideology.

Born in 1949, he was raised in New Zealand's underdeveloped far north. His father, a left-wing trade unionist, died when he was six and Moore was brought by relatives.

As a teenager he began to work in the meat freezing industry — with the docks, the backbone of New Zealand trade unionism.

After jobs as a labourer and a printer he became the youngest member of parliament in 1972 at the age of 23. He lost his seat in 1975 and became a social worker in a mental hospital before being returned to parliament in 1978.

Then cancer was diagnosed. During chemotherapy, he went from 95 to 64 kilograms and lost all his hair.

In his book "Hard Labour" Moore described his return to parliament in 1979.

"Gaunt, wearing a suit that looked as though it belonged to somebody else and with a quar-

ter-inch growth of hair on my head, I looked like a refugee from a concentration camp."

Friend and foe alike wonder whether his energy will be enough to hold together a notoriously unruly Labour Party.

Labour trails the National Party by up to 35 percentage points in opinion polls. Elections are scheduled for Oct. 27.

"He bounced from idea to idea with a great deal of enthusiasm and does have the ability to enthuse others," said political scientist Nigel Roberts.

"He's very hard working, he's very bright, but he's all over the place... Sometimes the ideas will be half-formed, sometimes they'll be excellent."

Former Prime Minister Sir Robert Muldoon, a long-time adversary, said Moore puts his career first.

"I think Moore's problem is he's thinking of Mike Moore and his political advancement much more than most members of parliament and that's a defect," he said in a recent interview.

As external relations and trade minister, Moore has started to patch New Zealand's troubled relationship with the United States and fought for free world trade to boost farm exports.

As foreign affairs minister he met Secretary of State James Baker earlier this year in the first bilateral contact between a senior New Zealand and U.S. official since Washington froze ties in 1986 in protest at Labour's anti-nuclear policy.

Since then he has trodden a narrow political path, trying to repair relations with Washington without backing down on the anti-nuclear policy, which has overwhelming public support.

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Whenever they have shared a podium after finishing in the top three in a race, as in Brazil, France, Britain and Belgium, there has been a deadly silence between them.

They have always sat apart at press conferences and for a long period Senna always referred to Prost as simply "be" or "him" in his comments.

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Schulz

Whenever they have shared a podium after finishing in the top three in a race, as in Brazil, France, Britain and Belgium, there has been a deadly silence between them.

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Dollar falls against yen

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo stocks soared Monday in a market buoyed by the U.S.-Soviet summit meeting over the weekend and hopes of a Middle East settlement, but analysts warned the rise was only temporary.

The U.S. dollar fell to a 1990 low against the Japanese yen, breaking the psychological barrier of 140 yen. It firmed, however, against other major currencies in Tokyo dealings.

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the 225-share Nikkei index posted its sixth-largest gain on record by the close of trading. The key market barometer rose 1,118.83 points or 4.67 per cent over last Friday's close to finish at 25,080.90.

Last week, the index fell 7.76 per cent in a market clouded by concern over the Gulf crisis and rising interest rates at home.

The Nikkei surged from the start of the week's trading as Japan's largest brokerage reacted positively to a stronger yen, easier oil prices and a weekend summit meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that could lead to a negotiated settlement to the Gulf crisis, traders said.

Analysts were sceptical the gains could be maintained in a market they described as thin.

"I don't think anybody really believes the market is posting lasting gains," said Philip Gordon-Lennox, fund manager at Nippon Credit Bank.

"Stocks went up in a vacuum today," said Paul Migliorato, broker at Jardine Fleming Securities.

"If they could get the Nikkei to jump 800 points on only 140 million shares every morning, there would be no problems in the Tokyo stock market," he said.

Brokers said the higher yen contributed to the day's advances, but cautioned that any further weakening in the dollar would not necessarily be good for Tokyo stocks.

Gulf crisis fuels Indian stock market boom

BOMBAY (R) — The Gulf crisis has sent stock markets tumbling in most of the world, but in India it has fuelled a boom as the market absorbs a rush of funds from Indians living in the Middle East.

Many of the estimated 500,000 Indians living in the Gulf started sending money home as panic took hold after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, stockbrokers and merchant bankers said.

"A lot of money from Indians living in the Gulf has come into stock markets," Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) President G.B. Desai said. "But it is very difficult to quantify."

Excellent corporate results, a good monsoon and mutual funds flushed with liquid cash had initially set off an unprecedented boom in share prices on Indian stock markets.

"The impact of the Gulf crisis will be felt in the long run. Right now the flow of funds from there seems to have a positive impact," said K. Dharam Pal, manager of

Canabank Mutual Fund.

"I know of a broker who has been receiving an average 10 million rupees (\$70,000) a day since the invasion," Pal said.

He estimated offshore funds raised by state agencies to invest in shares in India at \$500 million, in addition to 20 billion rupees (\$1.14 billion) mobilised at home.

The Gulf money has increased liquidity in the market, he said. "More money is chasing fewer stocks."

The index of the Bombay market, India's biggest, rose 25.39 points to a record 1,255.72 Friday. It was 1,043.54 a month ago and 732.71 one year ago.

Share prices have risen an average 40 per cent since March, when the boom began, despite internal political crises and tension between India and Pakistan, brokers said.

Leading stockbroker Mahendra Kampani said stock market booms appear to have tempted investment from India's middle

classes, about 100 million strong in a population of 850 million.

Just a few years ago, markets were regarded by much of the middle class as gambling dens thronged by speculators where only seasoned investors could understand the intricacies of trading.

Many companies made 40 to 70 per cent profits in the fiscal year that ended March 31 and paid higher dividends to investors in anticipation of even higher returns this year, Kampani said.

Investors in real estate, the diamond trade and hulloos found the returns on shares more attractive, he said.

Money was also now coming from villages and small towns, merchant banker K. Mohanan said.

Investor response to a current mutual fund offer of 10 billion rupees (\$570 million) was overwhelming, he said. Mutual funds and other investment avenues offer up to 15 per cent interest against 10 per cent on bank deposits.

Financial consultant Ajit Dayal said stock market boom defied logic as there were several factors going against it.

"A precarious balance of payments situation and adverse political developments, including the Gulf crisis, have not dampened the markets or kept foreign investors out," Dayal said.

The mutual funds had money to invest in shares, and would not sell them for the fear of being burdened with liquid cash again in a bullish market, he said.

"It is a vicious circle and speculators are taking advantage of the situation," Dayal said.

BSE authorities have imposed several curbs on trading, including limits to shares in which trading can take place, but these have had little sobering effect on rising prices, except to limit trading volumes, stockbrokers said.

They predicted the market would continue steady, crisis or no crisis.

Pakistan expects heavy burden from Gulf crisis

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Pakistan will face a serious economic problem as a result of the current Gulf crisis, the country's minister of petroleum and mineral resources said here Sunday.

"With the rise of petroleum prices at the international level, Pakistan would bear an extra burden of over \$1 billion during the current financial year ending June 1991," said Lt. Gen Malik Abdul Majid at a news conference.

"The present situation in the Gulf has adversely affected the economy of Pakistan and we are faced with a shortage of fuel and petroleum products for which we would like to make up from the

resources of our friends in the region," he said.

The minister did not reveal the extent of purchases from Saudi Arabia but described his talks with his Saudi counterpart Hisham Nazer as fruitful.

He said he was promised maximum possible assistance from the authorities of the kingdom at all levels.

He also had talks with the Saudi Arabian Marketing and Refining Company (Samarec) and Saudi Aramco, the kingdom's oil-producing company.

Before the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, the oil-rich emirate and Saudi Arabia were Pakistan's main oil suppliers.

Israel devalues shekel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel devalued its shekel currency by 2,740.4 per cent against the dollar Monday, the first trading day after the Bank of Israel lowered the median value of the semi-floating currency.

The new representative rate was 2,080 shekels to the dollar compared to 2,020 Friday, the previous trading day.

Demand for foreign currency outstripped supply by \$27 million, the central bank said. In a change of policy in recent weeks, the bank did not sell dollars to meet the demand and stabilised the exchange rate.

Sunday, the Bank of Israel lowered the median rate of the shekel against a dollar-dominated basket of foreign currencies by 9.1 per cent, signalling there would be a devaluation.

The median rate is a stable rate around which the representative rate can fluctuate five per cent. The median rate for the basket set Sunday was 2,407 — the first adjustment in six months.

The representative rate Monday for the basket of currencies was 2,308.6 shekels to the basket, up 2,347.7 per cent from 2,254.4 shekels to the basket.

The devaluation had been anticipated for weeks by Israeli businessmen who bought foreign currency despite Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's assurances he was not planning a major devaluation or drastic economic steps.

Modai will present an economic plan at a special cabinet meeting Thursday. He says it will include measures to boost growth to help absorb a wave of Soviet Jewish immigration.

Hungary prepares for oil emergency

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary has drawn up emergency plans to restrict energy use in case oil supplies from the Soviet Union drop further or dry up completely, the trade and industry ministry has said.

The official MTI news agency said the amount of restrictions on consumption would fall on heavy industries and that private consumers would be the last to be affected by any squeeze.

Hungary is heavily dependent on the Soviet Union for imports of natural gas and electricity as well as oil.

But along with Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany, it has suffered this year from a sharp fall in contracted deliveries of Soviet oil.

Last month the four East European countries asked Moscow to make good the shortfall. But a Polish official said that Moscow had refused.

The Hungarian National Oil and Gas Trust (OKGT) expects Soviet oil imports in 1990 to total only 5,029 million tonnes although contracts were signed for 6.48 million tonnes.

The trust said it would buy 450,000 tonnes of free market light crude oil at a cost of up to \$120 million in October and November to fill the gap. It is also buying 200,000 tonnes of petrol for delivery this month to avoid shortages.

Hungary's domestic oil production meets less than 25 per cent of consumption which amounted in 1989 to 8.3 million tonnes. Earlier this year, it bought 208,000 tonnes of Iraqi oil and 243,000 tonnes of Algerian and Libyan oil.

In the event of a crisis in Soviet oil supplies, the OKGT has petrol reserves of up to nine days, crude oil reserves of up to seven days and stocks of diesel and heating fuel for 14 days.

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Iraq offers farmers big incentives

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, encouraging its farmers to grow more to heat an international trade embargo, has offered them rent-free land.

Agriculture Minister Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al Sabagh said farmers could lease any cultivable land for 25 years tax-free.

The first five years would also be rent-free while a symbolic amount would be charged for the remaining period, Monday's official Al Jumhuriya newspaper quoted him as saying.

The State Agricultural Bank will offer easy loans and prices of seed and fertilisers will be cut by 20 per cent.

The ruling Revolution Command Council last week exempted farmers from military service. The government has also offered 100,000 dinars (\$32,000) to anyone inventing a worthwhile local substitute for imported chicken feed.

A Runaway Maid

The Filipino maid "Belinda Pasad" ran away from her employer's house, Mr. Najib Qubani, the morning of Tuesday 4/9/90 to seek illegal employment somewhere else.

If you know anything about her whereabouts please contact Tel. 791512 or 819555; or the Zahran police station.

Anyone giving her shelter or employment shall be liable to legal prosecution.

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Porsche betters income

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — Leaner and meaner, West German sports car maker Porsche is roaring back towards the sales figures it outpaced before the 1987 stock market crash.

The group, Dr. Ing. H.C.F. Porsche A.G., has said its earnings improved in the 1989-90 financial year, aided by cost-cutting measures and higher sales of its most expensive models.

The company will not issue earnings figures until later this year, but a West German auto magazine estimated in August that Porsche's group net profit last year rose to 80 million marks (\$51.3 million). Porsche has declined comment.

In the 1988-89 year group net profit more than doubled to 34.2 million marks (\$34.7 million at current rates).

Porsche said its group sales, including parts and engineering work for other firms, rose 20.5 per cent to 3.05 billion marks (\$2 billion) in the year which ended July 31, 1990.

Car sales in the booming West German market rose 26.2 per cent to 943 million marks (\$604 million) while sales in other countries rose 18.2 per cent to 2.1 billion marks (\$1.3 billion). In March Porsche said group pre-tax profit nearly doubled to 75 million marks (\$48 million) in the first half of the 1989-90 year.

Porsche said in a statement it expected satisfactory business in the current 1990-91 year, although it added that risks could emerge in key export markets due to the uncertain outlook for the dollar and other important currencies.

In 1987 Porsche sales and profits tumbled as the dollar dropped

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Tanzania hikes petrol, oil prices

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania Monday became the latest African state to raise the price of petrol and oil as a result of the Gulf crisis.

The energy ministry said in a statement a litre of premium petrol was going up to 157 shillings (79 cents) from 124 shillings (62 cents) with immediate effect, a rise of 27 per cent.

Regular grade oil would rise to 152 shillings (76 cents), a 29 per cent increase on the previous 118 shillings (59 cents).

The rise was due to the sharp jump in the cost of oil on world markets since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

"The implication of such an unstable situation is that the government might be forced to adjust fuel prices from time to time," the statement said.

Champagne price bubbles up as French grape growers dig in

PARIS (R) — Like the bubbles it is famous for, the price of champagne is going to rise because of a dispute between producers and the farmers who grow the grapes on the chalky hills of eastern France.

Champagne grapes will cost an average 20 per cent more from now on, an increase which producers said could lead to a rise of at least 10 per cent in the cost of a bottle.

The collapse in April of a 30-year-old price negotiating system between growers and champagne producers, which fixed an annual overall price, is being blamed for the increase.

The Champagne Producers Bureau, based in Epervy, has said the 1990 reference price had been fixed at 32 francs (\$6.10) per kilogramme.

"By comparison with the former contractual system, grape prices will now be fixed between

buyers and sellers... this free market will bring grape price increases of more than 20 per cent," the Champagne Producers Bureau said.

But producers said the eventual grape price increase could be as high as 30 per cent as companies were now obliged to negotiate with individual vineyard owners for each crop.

There is usually a two-year gap between the time of grapes being picked and when they are sold as champagne, but producers to Epervy said higher grape costs would have to be reflected in bottle prices by January 1991.

Champagne prices vary enormously. Moet et Chandon's cheapest non-vintage bottle in France costs 140 francs (\$26) while a bottle of vintage Dom Perignon can run to 400 francs (\$77).

The popularity of champagne is at the heart of the price increases.

Tension in Gulf causes dilemma for Philippines

MANILA (AP) — The Gulf crisis has delivered a severe blow to an economy already reeling from a coup attempt, and officials are urging President Corazon Aquino to make tough decisions.

"There appears to be a sense of drift, and there's a lot of speculation in the financial markets," said Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao.

"The immediate task at hand is to come out with very clear decisions on some very key points of the economy so that we stop all of

this speculation," he added.

Government officials estimate 9,000 Filipino workers have already fled Kuwait and Iraq and another 51,000 remain in the two countries.

More than a half million Filipinos work throughout the Gulf and their remittances are a major source of foreign exchange. The Philippine National Bank estimates the Gulf crisis has already reduced remittances by 15-20 per cent.

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In
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Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.

Cambodian factions agree on national council

JAKARTA (R) — Warring Cambodian factions agreed Monday to set up a joint Supreme National Council chaired by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and to let the United Nations get on with supervising an end to their 11-year war.

At the same time Sihanouk, who was unable to attend the Jakarta talks owing to illness, threw fresh confusion into the proceedings by declaring that his health was forcing him to give up politics for six months.

Diplomats warned against optimism over a peaceful solution for Cambodia until the factions had actually put their signatures on paper.

"This is a breakthrough," said Leng Muly, secretary-general of the non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Delegates said all four battling factions, under intense pressure from the superpowers to settle, had agreed on the composition of the Supreme National Council and to have Sihanouk as its chairman.

But one diplomat said: "It's still in the balance. The Indonesians (co-chairing the talks with France) certainly don't think it's in the bag yet."

Sihanouk, who is renowned for his unpredictable changes of direction, nominally heads a guerrilla coalition grouping two non-Communist groups with the Khmer Rouge which was meeting with the Phnom Penh govern-

ment, headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen, to discuss allowing the United Nations to play a central role in the peace settlement.

The Supreme National Council would be largely symbolic and pass most of its powers to the U.N. which would arrange elections, a halt to the fighting and the installation of a new government.

Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh confirmed the agreement, telling reporters: "We have an SNC (Supreme National Council)."

One of his senior aides added: "It's a compromise between our call for 13 and their call for 12 (members). The SNC will elect the chairman (the 13th)."

A Phnom Penh official, Uch Kiman, said his government would accept a chairman either from the council's 12 members, equally divided between the two warring camps, or from outside.

It would mean including two members of the ultra-Communist Khmer Rouge, internationally reviled for their experimental rule in the late 1970s during which more than a million Cambodians died.

Fears that the Khmer Rouge, which dominates Sihanouk's guerrilla coalition trying to oust Hun Sen, might return to power sparked Washington's announcement last month that it no longer recognised the anti-Phnom Penh group.

"It's important to decide on the SNC and then we can move ahead we can proclaim to the world we have reached an agreement... and then go along with the framework of the permanent five (members of the U.N. Security Council)," Uch Kiman said.

Diplomats say the United States, Soviet Union and China — which along with Britain and France make up the five — are fed up with the war in the small South East Asian country they have financed for more than a decade and whose significance in superpower relations is fast evaporating.

Phnom Penh official denied that Hun Sen's own position as prime minister was under any threat and that he would have trouble getting any deal through his politburo.

The Phnom Penh official denied that Hun Sen's own position as prime minister was under any threat and that he would have trouble getting any deal through his politburo.

But official sources and diplomats in Phnom Penh said serious differences exist within his government and that there was strong opposition to the premier giving too much away at the Jakarta peace talks.

One charge "pertains to an appointment of a consultant on an Asian Development Bank loan for Karachi Electric Supply Corporation power extension scheme," he said.

The other was in connection with a contract assigned to cotton dealers Ralli Brothers of Karachi. More charges could be filed against Bhutto, a government source said.

The decision to bring charges ends a lengthy debate between the president and the country's caretaker rulers on the wisdom of proceeding against Bhutto.

One faction argued it would increase sympathy for her while the others said it was essential for the credibility of the interim government sworn in after the dismissal.

In an interview shortly before the charges were filed, Bhutto demanded a judicial commission to probe the conduct of all presidents and prime ministers since 1985.

Calling herself the victim of a systematic campaign to tarnish her image, she said: "A sinister campaign has been launched against me only."

Instead of special courts, Bhutto said a commission of supreme court justices should investigate the two heads of state and four heads of government who have held office since 1985.

Government action, which is confined to the 20 months of Bhutto's government from December 1988, has been widely criticised in Pakistan for being openly partisan.

Bhutto's businessman husband Asif Ali Zardari is also under investigation but he has succeeded in getting pre-arrest bail to prevent him being arrested and held in custody.

In Pakistan it is possible to get bail before an arrest or before charges have been filed.

Charges filed against Bhutto

KARACHI (R) — Charges of abuse of power were filed against Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Karachi high court Monday.

The charges will be heard by a special court with power to disqualify Bhutto from general elections in October.

They allege abuses over a cotton contract and the appointment of a consultant on an Asian Development Bank contract, court Registrar Abdul Gharfoor said.

Gharfoor declined to give details of the two charges, but said they had been filed on behalf of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who sacked Bhutto on Aug. 6 saying she had presided over a corrupt government guilty of many abuses.

Hearings will begin Wednesday in one of the 11 one-judge courts set up by Ishaq Khan since the sacking.

If convicted, Bhutto, 37, could be disqualified from taking part in elections due on Oct. 24 and from any public office for seven years.

Gharfoor said neither charge had been filed before a court empowered to impose a prison term.

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WARSAW (AP) — Public schools have begun teaching religion in post-Communist Poland, prompting concern about the continued separation of church and state in an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country.

In the term that began this month, the Catholic religion is being taught two hours a week from kindergarten through high school, replacing the former system of church-run catechism schools.

Attendance is optional and some other religions also are arranging classes, but the government's decision has left many people uneasy. Non-Catholics express fears their children will be singled out and harassed by others because of their different beliefs.

"Intolerance is one thing we fear," said Zdzislaw Slowinski, a Wrocław polytechnic scientist. "Second, as we experienced before the war, the church will impose its doctrines on the overall educational system."

Slowinski, who has four children, is rallying like-minded parents against the classes. He rejects organised religion, and said his children already encounter hostility because they do not participate in church ceremonies.

Newspaper letter columns have been filled with arguments for and against the classes.

Most people who telephoned two call-in radio shows on the first day of school opposed them. Some complained that parishioners paid to build church classrooms that will be unused because of the shift to public schools.

The Catholic Church made religion in the public schools one of

Johnson claims to run Liberia after capturing Doe in battle

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (Agencies) — Fighters loyal to rebel leader Prince Johnson have captured Liberian President Samuel Doe, who the British Broadcasting Corp. said was shot in both legs in a battle that killed more than 60 people.

Johnson claimed in a telephone call to the BBC Monday that he would run the country until elections are held, but the 8 1/2 month-old civil war appeared anything but over.

He controls most of Monrovia, the Liberian capital, but rival rebel leader Charles Taylor holds most of the country.

Taylor began the struggle to topple Doe, accusing him of corruption and human rights abuses. Doe, a former army sergeant, seized power in a bloody 1980 coup and claimed to have thwarted more than 30 attempts to topple him since.

More than 5,000 people have been killed since Taylor crossed into Liberia from the Ivory Coast in December, and a 5,000-member task force from five West African nations was dispatched on Aug. 24 to try to end bloodletting that has often followed ethnic lines.

Sixty-four people, including dozens of Doe's bodyguards, were killed in Sunday's fighting

between Doe loyalists and Johnson's fighters, the BBC said. It said the battle took place outside the headquarters of the West African task force in Monrovia.

Doe had left his fortified seaside mansion to pay an unscheduled visit to the commander of the task force, Lt. Gen Arnold Quainoo of Ghana, the BBC's correspondent in Monrovia reported.

Johnson and some of his fighters followed Doe and his bodyguards, the BBC said. The two sides then started battling with rifles, machine guns and grenades.

Johnson's rebels wounded Doe in both legs and carried him off to their base camp, the report said. The U.S. State Department confirmed that Doe had been seized by Johnson's rebels but could not provide further details.

Johnson called the BBC early Monday and declared himself president until an interim government could be installed. Taylor also has claimed the presidency.

The BBC said Johnson pledged to court-martial Doe. When the West African task force sailed into Monrovia two weeks ago Doe and Johnson agreed to an informal ceasefire. But Taylor's forces claimed the West African task force sup-

ported Doe, and continued fighting. Rebels in the civil war have accused Doe of nepotism and stealing millions of dollars of state money. They also hold him responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians killed during the civil war.

The war has left Monrovia without running water and telephone communications and the West African task force had been working to try to create secure enough conditions to bring in international relief workers.

Very little food has made it to the capital, a city of 400,000 people, for about two months. Johnson's forces control Monrovia's port. Taylor's 10,000 fighters have overrun most of Liberia but have been bogged down on Monrovia's outskirts for more than two months.

The commander of the mansion guard of Doe has been chosen to head an interim government, the British Broadcasting Corporation said Sunday.

Isaac Nyein, Doe's minister for presidential affairs, telephoned BBC correspondent Elisabeth Blunt to say that Brigadier General David Nimley, commander of the Executive Mansion Guard, had been selected by Doe's associates.

Brazil mass grave discovery renews questions about amnesty for killers

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Activists are demanding a full investigation into the discovery of a clandestine mass grave containing more than 1,700 bodies, some apparently of political opponents of Brazil's former military rulers.

The activists' calls come despite an amnesty passed by the former military dictatorship which bars prosecuting anyone involved in the deaths.

"The construction of a state of law and democracy demands the truth... is fully told," said a statement issued last week by two human rights groups.

"This necessity is even greater in Brazil because the amnesty eliminated the possibility that those responsible for torture and assassinations would be held accountable for their actions," the statement said.

The grave, discovered Tuesday in Peru on the outskirts of Sao Paulo, contained mostly the remains of paupers. But an estimated 50 of the dead are believed to be former enemies of the military government that ruled from 1964 to 1985.

Some of the skeletons unearthed had damaged skulls from gunshot wounds to the head, and human rights officials say the people were summarily executed. A pacemaker and platinum dental work also indicated that not all the remains were those of

paupers.

Sao Paulo Mayor Luiz Erundino said records at three other city graveyards would be checked this week to see if other military "enemies" were buried there.

Unlike some South American countries, Brazil never fully investigated human rights abuses that occurred under military rule.

Brazil's dictatorship was not as brutal as some in the region, but it systematically violated human rights, rights groups say. About 200 people were killed in Brazil, 150 disappeared and thousands were tortured, the groups say.

Many people with leftist sympathies were exiled.

Ontario Indians remove blockade; armed standoff continues in Oka

BRANTFORD, Ontario (AP) — Indians dismantled their blockade of railroad tracks near Brantford, Ontario, Sunday after the railway obtained a court injunction.

Members of the six nations Indian band blockaded the Canadian National (CN) Rail tracks running through their reserve about 12 miles (20 kilometres) southeast of Brantford last Wednesday to press land claims and show support for the Mohawks on the Kahnawake settlement near Oka in Quebec.

CN Rail obtained a court injunction ordering the removal of the blockade late Saturday, and provincial police said the natives removed a snow plow on the tracks without incident.

"We're not lawbreakers," said Bill Montour, a chief on the reserve. "It was an order by the Ontario court. We lost the battle, but we're still fighting the war."

Other members of the six nations band continued to block two highways near Brantford and Caledonia, said police Sgt. Bob Adams. Those blockades have been in place for a week, and police were directing traffic around the area.

At the Kahnawake settlement just west of Montreal, about 400 troops continued to surround a group of about 20 armed Mohawk men and 30 women and children.

The Mohawks retreated to a detoxification centre in a small wooded area after Quebec authorities ordered troops into the settlement early this month to dismantle barricades put up by the Indians.

The Mohawks have said they won't lay down their arms without assurances that they will be protected from reprisals by Quebec provincial police.

Indian leaders have proposed setting up a native peacekeeping force for the settlement. Canadian authorities have rejected this proposal.

A Quebec police officer was killed July 11 when the provincial police stormed a Mohawk barricade erected to protest a decision by the town of Oka to expand a municipal golf course onto land claimed by the Indians.

The dispute over the golf course expansion was resolved when the federal government purchased the land and said it would give it to the Indians. But the Mohawks have raised a wider range of grievances, including demands for sovereignty.

Polish public school religious classes stir debate

WARSAW (AP) — Public schools have begun teaching religion in post-Communist Poland, prompting concern about the continued separation of church and state in an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country.

In the term that began this month, the Catholic religion is being taught two hours a week from kindergarten through high school, replacing the former system of church-run catechism schools.

Attendance is optional and some other religions also are arranging classes, but the government's decision has left many people uneasy. Non-Catholics express fears their children will be singled out and harassed by others because of their different beliefs.

"Intolerance is one thing we fear," said Zdzislaw Slowinski, a Wrocław polytechnic scientist. "Second, as we experienced before the war, the church will impose its doctrines on the overall educational system."

Slowinski, who has four children, is rallying like-minded parents against the classes. He rejects organised religion, and said his children already encounter hostility because they do not participate in church ceremonies.

Newspaper letter columns have been filled with arguments for and against the classes.

Most people who telephoned two call-in radio shows on the first day of school opposed them. Some complained that parishioners paid to build church classrooms that will be unused because of the shift to public schools.

The Catholic Church made religion in the public schools one of

its main goals after the Communists fell from power last year.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the conservative head of the Polish Church, has vigorously defended the religion classes and his priests promote them in their weekly homilies.

Addressing 400,000 faithful on Aug. 15 at the Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, Glemp blamed the old regime for current doubts teaching religion in the schools.

"In its struggle against religion, the Communist system managed to reduce it in the minds of many people to the rank of a private matter," the cardinal said. "In reality, religion is not a private matter. Faith requires a community."

The Rev. Henryk Jankowski, pastor of St. Brygid's Church in Gdansk, said in a recent interview: "Should religious instruction in schools be restored? The answer is definite. Schools are the property of the nation. The Polish nation is over 90 per cent Catholic."

Jankowski's church is near the shipyard where Solidarity was born in 1980, and became an unofficial headquarters of the union movement during the years it was banned.

An Education Ministry regulation providing for the classes, issued on Aug. 2, was drafted by a joint commission of the church and the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a former Catholic journalist.

Priests, nuns and lay teachers appointed by local bishops arrived at schools on opening day, Sept. 3.

School principals and many

other Poles were caught by surprise.

There was no parliamentary debate and Education Ministry officials previously had spoken against religion classes. Room assignments and class schedules had been completed, so school officials scrambled to find space and time for the extra sessions.

Jacek Ambrozjak, a government minister and co-chairman of the joint commission, noted that the classes were voluntary and declared: "The instruction does not impose anything on anyone or restrict anyone's freedom of beliefs."

A commission statement urged "tolerance and respect people following a different philosophy."

About 36 million of Poland's 38 million people identify themselves as Roman Catholic. The next largest group is Eastern Orthodox, with about 1 million adherents concentrated in the eastern provinces.

Among many smaller religious minorities are Lutherans, Evangelicals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists, Mormons, Jews and even Muslims, descended from Tatar invaders of the Middle Ages.

Opposition comes from several quarters.

Freedom and Peace, a pacifist-ecological group oriented to the young, has urged high school students to boycott the classes.

Government ombudsman Ewa Letowska asked the constitutional tribunal, the highest court for constitutional questions, to determine whether the religion classes are legal without legislation. Her appeal is based in part on a 1961 law requiring schools to be non-

religious in character.

A survey by state television in late August indicated Poles preferred the system of church schools by a margin of 59 per cent to 39. It involved 900 people nationwide, with a 3 per cent margin of error.

At the kindergarten and elementary level, parents decide whether their children will attend the classes. In high school, either the student or parents can make the decision.

Prayer is permitted at the beginning of the school day in the presence of all children, including non-believers. Lay religious teachers will be paid by the schools, but not the clergy.

Leading non-Catholic denominations endorsed the classes, after some hesitation. Orthodox and Protestant classes are being organised, drawing pupils from several schools when necessary.

The Catholic Church argues that religion classes are merely a return to the situation before the Communists. Religion was taught in schools until the early 1950s, when the Communists felt strong enough to clamp down on the church and imprisoned Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński for three years.

After hard-line Stalinists were ousted in 1956, religion returned to the schools briefly until the education law of 1961. The church then established its catechism schools, which met after regular school or on weekends.

Attendance at the church classes was nearly universal among Catholics. Sending one's child was both an expression of faith and a patriotic defiance of the Communists.

Gorbachev gives Bush cold war 'knock out' cartoon

HELSINKI (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev presented George Bush with a framed cartoon Sunday depicting himself and the U.S. president as victorious boxers who have just knocked out the cold war. Gorbachev gave Bush the picture, which was drawn by a Soviet cartoonist, at the start of their third summit in less than a year.

Bush received the gift with a smile as the two leaders greeted each other warmly in the parquet-floored yellow salon of Finland's presidential palace. The image shows Gorbachev and Bush dressed as boxers. The referee between them has a globe for a head and holds aloft an arm apiece of the two leaders. Lying in the foreground is a melting figure labelled in Cyrillic, "cold war," and the caption of the cartoon proclaims "knock out."

A Soviet official told the White House aide that the cartoon signifies that "both win, nobody loses."

Edward Kennedy's daughter marries

CENTERVILLE, Massachusetts (AP) — Kara Kennedy, the daughter of Sen. Edward Kennedy, was married in this Cape Cod town to Michael Allen, a 33-year-old bride served as a campaign manager for her father's re-election in 1988. Most recently, she has been a producer for a Boston television station. "The easiest job was walking Kara down the aisle," the senator said Saturday through a spokesman. "The hardest job was giving her away." His daughter had 14 bridesmaids, including cousins Robin Lawford, Victoria Lawford, Pender and Kerry Kennedy Cuomo. Kara Kennedy and her bridesmaids all wore designer gowns, as did her mother, Joan Bennett Kennedy. For the day of the ceremony, Sen. Kennedy placed nautical flags on all of the Kennedy family sailboats that spelled out "Kara and Michael," keeping with the Cape Cod theme, the wedding cake featured a replica of the family sailboat, the Victoria. A private reception was held at the home of Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, the bride's grandmother.

Giant panda gives birth to twins

PEKING (AP) — A giant panda that was born via artificial insemination has given birth to twins conceived with the same method, an official report said. The mother, Qingqing, gave birth to cubs Guanguan, a female, and Junjun, a male, 16 days ago in a zoo in the southwestern city of Chengdu, the Xinhua News Agency said. The cubs are healthy, it said. Qingqing conceived the twins through artificial insemination using frozen semen, the report said. It said Qingqing also was the product of artificial insemination but did not say when she was born. Fewer than 1,000 of the endangered giant pandas still live in the wild, most of them in southwestern China near Chengdu.

U.K. policewoman launches sex discrimination case

LIVERPOOL, England, (R) — Britain's most senior policewoman opened a legal fight to prove she had been held back from further promotion because of sexual discrimination. Latest figures show that Britain has 11,118 police officers with the rank of inspector and above, but only 224 are women. Alison Halford, 49, an assistant chief constable in Merseyside in north-east England, attended a preliminary hearing of an industrial tribunal — a British labour court — to discuss her accusation. Halford, who has been in the police for 28 years, complained that she applied for the post of deputy chief constable of Northamptonshire in the midlands, but was not even invited for an interview. She said she had two other similar experiences. She filed an industrial tribunal claim, alleging sexual discrimination, against Home Secretary David Waddington, who is the government minister in charge of police, the Northamptonshire Force, the overall police inspectorate and her own chief constable in Merseyside, James Sharpley. A lawyer for the official Equal Opportunities Commission told reporters after the two-hour preliminary session that a full tribunal hearing would probably be held in January.

Knife found in milk carton in Florida suspect's home

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — Investigators who searched a suspect's home in the grisly killings of five college students found a knife hidden in a milk carton, a newspaper has reported.

The Gainesville Sun quoted two sources as saying that the knife was found last week as agents searched the Indianapolis home of Edward Lewis Humphrey, his Gainesville apartment and his car.

Humphrey, 18, hasn't been charged in the slayings but has been identified by police as one of eight suspects. They have refused to call him the prime suspect.

The Sun reported Sunday that the knife was found where Hum-

phrey told investigators earlier this month it would be. Lab tests will be performed to determine if the knife is linked to the killings.

All of the victims died from multiple stab wounds, police said.

Also confiscated from the home, owned by Humphrey's 79-year-old grandmother, Elna Flavy, were books, videotapes, and clothing. Humphrey lived there with his mother and grandmother.

Gainesville Police Lt. Sadie Darnell said Friday that "promising evidence" was found in the searches, but she refused to elaborate.

Humphrey's attorney, J.R. Russo, said Sunday he could not confirm the seizure of the knife.

COLUMN

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